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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Fire swallows CK house

» Blaze wipes out vegetation at Wireless Ridge

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire engulfed a two-story house in Chalan Kanoa early yesterday morning, even as a brush fire that broke out Monday afternoon at Wireless Ridge was still spreading, destroying acres of vegetation.

The Chalan Kanoa fire gutted the interior of the two-story house on Anita Avenue corner Crispina Street.

No one was reported injured as the house occupants—Wilfredo "Boy" Ching, his wife, and 29-year-old son—managed to run outside for safety.

Ching and his family were able to drive out their two ve-

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Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire that engulfed a two-story house in Chalan Kanoa early yesterday morning. DFEMS

Task force to regulate B&Bs

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Cavanagh

Far from responding to the need for more beds for tourists in the Commonwealth, the CNMI government views illegal bed-and-breakfast places as wily operators who make a quick buck while skirting paying taxes—to the detriment of hotel operators who do pay the occupancy tax.

The Commonwealth government is now cracking down on these operators, with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres forming a special task force com-

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AC issue shutters Guma Hustisia

» Source says it's not just the air-conditioning system but possibly a mold problem

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

File photo shows the Guma Hustisia building in Susupe.
FERDIE DE LA TORRES

The Guma Hustisia in Susupe has been closed since Friday morning because of the air-conditioning problem, resulting in the postponement of several case proceedings.

It's not just the air-conditioning system, though, ac-

See AC on Page 4

NMTI claims NMC opposes accreditation

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute claims the Northern Marianas College opposes its accreditation and conversion into a public, accredited institution, but NMC claims that is not the case.

In an interview with NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres at the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni restaurant, McPhetres claimed that NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez never supported the conversion of NMTI into a public institution due to funding issues.

"She thinks that we will take funding away from the college," she said.

Fernandez's testimony to the Legislature in regards to Senate Bill 20-21 late last year states otherwise.

"The college has supported NMTI since its inception, even providing capital equipment and materials, and we will continue to assist NMTI

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Families of mass shooting victims call to stop investing in companies that sell weapons.
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Local

Mayor's office offers low-cost spay and neutering for 5 days

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is encouraging the community to take advantage of a low-cost spay and neutering that it will be offering for up to five days.

Starting Monday, the Saipan Mayor's Office officially started offering spay and neutering services for as low as $25.

According to dog control program manager Spencer Marchadesch, the spay and neutering process can cost pet owners roughly between $70 and $80 in most clinics on island.

For five days only, pet owners can get their cats or dogs spayed or neutered for $25 only and the Saipan Mayor's Office will foot the difference from the original price.

The office has gone as far as flying in trained veterinarians from Dallas, Texas. The veterinarians are from a non-profit organization called Spay Neuter Network.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, it is important to spay or neuter cats or dogs because the population of stray dogs and cats on island has grown significantly.

Not only will neutering or spaying aid in the Saipan Mayor's Office's dog control program's mission to rid the island of stray dogs and cats, but it will also ensure safety for the community because many stray animals can either carry diseases or could harm pedestrians.

Marchadesch is encouraging interested pet owners to set appointments beforehand. Individuals may contact him at 783-4743.

The spaying and neutering is currently being done at the roundhouse next to the Sugar King Park.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

You're no longer a teenager, that's for sure. Welcome to the world of adults, and I hope you like it here. It's not always as cool as it sounds. There's a lot of wondering and second-guessing before finally succeeding. There's a lot of tears before finally finding true love. And there's a lot of trial and error before finding something that truly works. Still, being an adult gives you a happiness like no other. I hope you have the time of your life! Happy 21st birthday, Enrico!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Groups oppose reversing court order to add documents

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four environmental groups are opposing the U.S. Department of Navy's and the U.S. Department of Defense's request for the U.S. District Court for the NMI to reverse its order that compels them to add more documents to the record in the lawsuit filed by the groups.

The Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani, Pagan Watch, and the Center for Biological Diversity, through counsel David L. Henkin of Earthjustice, said the district already resolved in its Feb. 12, 2018, order their motion for the Navy and Defense to complete the administrative record.

Henkin said the Navy and Defense are acting as if the earlier round of briefing on the groups' motion never happened, and as if the court were rendering a decision on a blank slate.

Henkin said reconsideration is reserved for exceptional circumstances and does not give the Navy and Defense license to rehash old arguments or advance new ones.

The lawyer said the court applied the correct standard for completing the administrative record.

He said the documents in dispute all reflect the Navy's own analyses, prepared at the same time as the supplemental environmental impact statement regarding the training that Marines relocated to Guam would require in the CNMI.

Henkin said the court did not err in concluding the Navy considered the six documents cited in the groups' motion and, accordingly, those documents must be added to the record.

Henkin said the court did not err in ordering completion of the record with documents related to the Navy's analyses of the training needs of Guam-based Marines.

"To avoid further delay in reaching the merits of this case, the court should compel defendants promptly to complete the record with the improperly omitted documents," he said.

In their motion for reconsideration, the Navy and Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer, and Defense and Defense Secretary James Mattis asked the court to deny the groups' motion to supplement the record in their lawsuit.

Joshua P. Wilson, the Department of Justice's Environmental & Natural Resources Division trial lawyer, said the groups asserted at the Feb. 23, 2018, hearing that they are not seeking the entire CNMI Joint Military Training record and that they are only seeking documents related to a supposed finding that the training on Tinian analyzed in the 2010 final environmental impact statement and approved in the 2010 record of decision would be inadequate to satisfy the requirements for Marines based in Guam.

But the Navy has made no such finding, according to Wilson.

Wilson said an order requiring the Navy to search for and compile documents within this category would likely require months of work to identify potential custodians, and collect and review documents for content and privilege.

Last March 5, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied the groups' motion for the court to enforce its Feb. 12 order that compels the Navy and Defense to add four documents to the record in their lawsuit.

The groups are suing the Navy, Spencer, Defense, and Mattis over the Navy's decision to relocate 5,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to conduct live-training on Tinian and Pagan for alleged violation of the Na-

See GROUPS on Page 4

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Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, March 23, 2018. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

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Bordallo questions Zinke on Guam priorities

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) questioned U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan K. Zinke on Friday about key priorities for Guam during an oversight hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee regarding the Trump Administration's fiscal year 2019 budget proposal for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Bordallo underscored the need for greater federal support to help Guam address the inadequacy of Compact impact and GovGuam's current budget crisis caused by the Republican tax law.

Bordallo also sought Zinke's support on behalf of the Trump administration for increased voting rights for Americans living in the territories, as well as for her LWCF Parity for Territories and DC Act.

In response to Bordallo's questions, Zinke committed to working with her to reconsider the administration's proposed cuts to discretionary Compact impact grants, and considering supporting the LWCF Parity for Territories and DC Act, which would provide Guam with a state-equivalent share in annual grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Zinke also committed to raising with President Trump his administration's official position on extending full voting rights to residents of the five U.S. territories, which would require a constitutional amendment.

He will also organize an official visit by Trump to this region to meet with the governors of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Bordallo continues working to prevent the Trump administration's proposed budget cuts to federal programs important to Guam, as Congress considers the president's budget proposal.

The Guam delegate also continues working to advance legislation that increases federal assistance to Guam like her Compact Impact Relief Act (H.R.4761), in light of GovGuam's budgetary shortfall due to the Republic tax law signed by Trump.

"I am encouraged by the commitments Secretary Zinke made [Friday], including that Guam's priorities will be addressed by this administration. The President's budget cuts to critical programs on which Guam and the other territories rely are unacceptable, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to protect them.

"As a career Navy SEAL, Secretary Zinke is no stranger to Guam. I again invited him to visit our island. I hope that Secretary Zinke will come to Guam to hear from local leaders and see our challenges first-hand, as part of any official state visit by President Trump to our region," said Bordallo. ***(PR)***

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42 students participate in Mentor for a Meal

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Young Professionals hosted its 10th and largest Mentor for a Meal event last Monday.

According to organizer Gerard Van Gils, this year's event was the largest one yet that he organized, with the participation of about 42 students and 42 mentors. The event was held at the Naked Fish in Oleai.

The concept is to pair a mentor with a high school student. The mentor and the student share a meal and the mentor is given the opportunity to share advice, life lessons, and stories.

Van Gil said the students involved in Mentor for a Meal are either preparing to pursue higher education, or are preparing to enter the CNMI workforce.

Van Gil said that public school students are equipped to transition smoothly into the professional community.

"Yesterday was a real victory for public education…public education is the great equalizer and our public schools are the centers of our community so what we're doing is we're bringing our public school students to interact with our professional community and everybody wins," he said.

The professionals involved in Monday night's Mentor for a Meal came from the government sector, private sector, businesses, and more. The mentors were engineers, CEOs, accountants, doctors, lawyers, legislators, etc.

The 42 participating students came from Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School.

TASK

From Page 1

posed of different government agencies to aggressively go out to enforce regulations, especially on illegal B&Bs.

Torres did acknowledge that these B&Bs still deserve due process.

"It's a long process…They [have to be] given due process and, if found not abiding by the law, are given fines," he said. "… It doesn't happen overnight, wherein we just go in and bust them."

Torres said the government's focus right now is empowering enforcement agencies such as the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Finance, and Department of Commerce to make sure these B&Bs have valid business licenses and adhere to building codes, among others.

According to a study on B&B activity in the CNMI in 2017, there are about 340 Airbnb listings posted on its website. This is composed of 53 percent entire homes, 39 percent private rooms, and 8 percent shared rooms.

The study also shows that there are 110 active hosts that typically earn $7,200 annually, putting total host earnings in the CNMI at $1.5 million. There was a total of 12,900 inbound guest arrivals that used B&Bs in the CNMI, staying for an average of 3.3 days per guest.

The Top 6 regions by guests come from Asia with 11,600, North America with 720, Europe with 140, Australia with 120 and Latin America with 10. The Top 6 countries by guest arrivals were Koreans with 6,500, China with 4,400, U.S. with 700, Hong Kong with 500, Japan with 130, and Guam with 70.

This growing number of B&B are welcomed by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority, provided that these B&B's charge customers a 15-percent tax on top of the room rate. This is called the hotel occupancy tax.

In an earlier interview, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said that MVA is funded wholly from from the hotel occupancy tax and, if this is not paid, they lose out.

"That's why our position is, we like the concept and we think there is a need for it because there are not a lot of hotel rooms but they should comply with the tax laws and it's only fair," he said.

"I like the free independent travelers. They look for those kinds of experiences and I do [believe] B&B experience should be a positive one. It allows the community to benefit. Just pay the proper tax. The collection of the occupancy tax has been established in the CNMI a long, long time ago. It should be applied and enforced," he added.

Last November, Gloria Cavanagh, president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, said the non-availability of rooms in hotels does not give a reason for unregistered guesthouses and B&Bs to operate illegally and is no reason not to enforce tax laws.

Saipan Tribune talked to Cavanagh last week and she is relieved that the government is finally doing everything it can to enforce the laws on B&B's.

"We actually feel very hopeful now that something is being done. We were going to start a new task force to try to push things along but since the [Torres] administration and Cabinet members bought into this, then we should be seeing more enforcement," she said.

"So far, it looks really good based on…meetings we had this week. Labor is meticulously checking the required reports; they are actually going into these properties and trying to get them to come into compliance," she said.

According to Josh Tyquiengco, public information officer of Guam Visitors Bureau, they are facing similar challenges in terms of the proliferation of B&B's in Guam.

"As part of their many duties, Guam's Department of Revenue and Taxation ensures that businesses are properly licensed and, just like any other business on Guam, anyone that lists on Airbnb needs a business license and must clear with agencies like the Guam Fire Department, Department of Public Works, and others to make sure it is operating safely and legally," he said.

"With the bed-and-breakfast and short-term vacation rentals, the GVB is helping Departmentof Revenue and Tax to create fact sheets and presentations that can be disseminated to the community to educate people on laws that were passed and the appropriate ways to run a bed-and-breakfast and short-term vacation rentals," he added.

Tyquiengco said that GVB is in talks with Airbnb to implement laws that is required of every host listed on Airbnb.

"There was a Guam law that was passed that allows Airbnb to collect a hotel occupancy tax and turn the money over to the Department of Revenue and Taxation for the Tourist Attraction Fund. Revenue & Tax is currently working with Airbnb to implement this law," he said.

The hotel occupancy rates in Guam are still healthy, however, he said. "We are seeing a rise in vacation rentals and bed-and-breakfast establishments. It's especially popular with Korean visitors. …We will continue to monitor the situation, as this is a new development to the island," he added.

In June last year, Torres asked the help of CNMI government agencies to help assess the island's infrastructure and capacity to accommodate the rapid increase in its number of visitors that went to a point of suspending new international flights into the CNMI for 60 days.

AC

From Page 1

cording to a source, but possibly a serious mold problem.

The source said mold is a health issue that would require closing the entire building for an unknown length of time.

According to the website www.mold-answers.com, mold spores irritate and inflame the airway and lungs, causing coughing, sneezing, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma attacks, and other respiratory problems.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from the CNMI Judiciary about a possible mold problem.

According to the CNMI Judiciary's public notice, the House of Justice was closed yesterday due to continuing efforts to repair the air-conditioning system.

The Office of Adult Probation satellite office located behind the House of Justice will maintain regular business hours, according to the notice signed by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

The Tinian and Rota courts have regular business hours.

NMTI

From Page 1

to support its growth in the area of trades education," she stated.

McPhetres stated that if NMTI is not tapping into NMC's funding now and is currently running smoothly, it makes no sense to think that NMTI would tap into NMC's funding if it is accredited.

"We are co-existing right now and we are not tapping into any of the funds of the college. It will not be an issue," she said.

According to Fernandez's testimony, her concern with the bill was not that NMTI would dip into NMC's funding source, but that there was no funding source specified in the bill and that a funding source and a duplication of responsibilities should be addressed in the bill before it is passed.

McPhetres is pushing the conversion of NMTI into a public institution to ensure that it remains open for years to come, and to give NMTI students the opportunity to transfer NMTI credits to other accredited colleges.

"It [accreditation] will provide stability… the community will know that it [NMTI] will be here for 20-25 years from now to continue training our students," she said.

According to McPhetres, the NMTI board wants to keep the institution self-sustaining but it is a struggle to remain so if students cannot fully pay tuition on their own.

McPhetres said if accredited and converted into a public institution, NMTI students would be able to access federal financial assistance and that could lessen the burden of tuition for students and, as a result, NMTI can continue to sustain itself.

Although Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoed the Senate bill that converts NMTI into a public, accredited institution, McPhetres said she spoke with Torres on Monday and he promised that a compromise would be reached.

"After meeting with him [Torres] yesterday, we came to some sort of agreement…because he has a plan for what he will do with NMTI…it will just delay our plan to work toward accrediting NMTI," she said.

McPhetres trusts Torres, that he is keeping NMTI's best interest in mind.

FIRE

From Page 1

hicles, but their white Toyota Tacoma pickup truck was left in the garage because they could not find the keys at that time.

The hood portion of the truck was burned.

Ching said he was watching TV on the first floor of the house while his wife and son were in their rooms on the second floor when the fire broke out.

He said he noticed smoke coming out of the ceiling on the first floor and thought it was coming from a neighbor.

Ching said his son, who was awakened by the smoke, shouted at him that there's plenty of smoke on the second floor.

Ching went upstairs and told his son to get his mother. It was dark on the second floor.

Ching said he could not go through the second floor as he almost fainted because of the smoke. He said his wife and their son crawled downstairs.

He believes the cause of the fire was faulty electrical wiring on the second floor's ceiling.

"We saved only two of our three vehicles. We failed to save any belongings," said Ching, who is thankful that he and his family are not hurt. They are also grateful to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for assisting them.

Ching and his family have been leasing the house for 18 years now.

At 12:49am yesterday, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services received a call from the Department of Public Safety 911 about a possible fire by Smiling Poker in Chalan Kanoa.

This prompted a fire engine that was battling the grass fire at Wireless Ridge to respond to the Chalan Kanoa blaze. Firefighters from Susupe and Koblerville fire stations also responded to Chalan Kanoa.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Commonwealth Ports Authority-Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting and the ARC-NMI Chapter were then contacted.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said the fire was controlled at 3:38am.

No one was reported injured.

Preliminary investigation by DFEMS showed that the fire's point of origin was on the second floor of the building.

In the grass fire incident, DFEMS activated a second Strike Team yesterday at midnight because of the brush fire's erratic behavior.

Gersonde said the winds, with strength of 9 to 11 miles per hour and gusts of up to 20 mph, caused the fire's erratic behavior to spread at 5 to 10 yards a minute.

Gersonde said that, at 2am yesterday, the fire crossed the Wireless Ridge Road because of the erratic winds and dry grass and brush.

The brush fire began Monday afternoon at Wireless Ridge by Mt. Susu. DFEMS Strike Teams have been trying to prevent the blaze from spreading.

Last March 12, three grass fires destroyed over an acre of vegetation near Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque and at the Tanapag Cemetery.

A brush fire swept 4.5 acres of vegetation in Papago last March 7.

Two weeks ago, multiple brush fires occurred on Tinian and Rota.

Gersonde reminded the public that the best way to battle grass fires is to prevent it from ever starting.

GROUPS

From Page 2

tional Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

The groups claim that the Navy and DOD have violated NEPA and APA by failing to consider the relocation efforts and potential construction of live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan as "connected actions" in a single environmental impact statement.

In her Feb. 12 order, Manglona ordered the Navy, Spencer, Defense, and Mattis to compete the administrative record in this case within 30 days.

The four documents refer to the final training needs assessment dated April 2012 and revised in March 2013; final CNMI Joint Military Training Requirements and Siting Study dated January 2013 and revised March 2013; March 14, 2013, *Federal Register* notice announcing the Navy's intent to prepare the CNMI Joint Military Training; and the draft CNMI Joint Military Training EIS/overseas EIS dated April 2015.

Inmate Manila's complaint found not frivolous

Reynaldo A. Manila's complaint that he may be losing his vision due to the negligence of the Department of Corrections was found not frivolous, but he was told to amend his lawsuit and name defendants.

Manila has sought help from the federal court after his eye surgery at the Commonwealth Health Center last September was allegedly unsuccessful and that he is worried he is losing his vision.

In her order on Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Manila's complaint fails to identify by name the persons or entities against whom he is complaining. She instructed Manila to amend his complaint by naming a defendant or defendants.

Manglona said the complaint mentions various Corrections officials and medical officers, but it is not the court's place to presume which if any of these persons Manila believes to be at fault.

Until Manila names his defendants, his case cannot proceed, Manglona said, adding that the proper course is for the court to give Manila the opportunity to do so, rather than dismiss the complaint.

Manglona ordered Manila to specifically identify the persons whom he is suing within 14 days. If he fails to do so, his case will be dismissed.

Once he does what the court orders, the court will grant his application to proceed without repayment of fees, allow the amendment, and order the U.S. Marshals to serve the complaint on the defendant or defendants so that the matter may proceed.

According to court documents, Manila wrote Manglona last Dec. 6 explaining his eye problem and begging for assistance as he cannot afford to pay a lawyer to represent him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy wrote back to Manila last Jan. 2 at Manglona's instruction.

Kennedy told Manila that the court is not allowed to give legal advice, but that if he wishes to file a civil complaint concerning his treatment while incarcerated, the clerk's office staff can help him with court procedures and forms.

Kennedy said Manila may file a complaint by himself without a lawyer and he may apply to proceed without prepaying court fees.

Manila wrote back last Jan. 29 to Manglona and Kennedy, expressing his appreciation for giving him a response.

In December 2015, the CNMI Board of Parole voted to commute the 60-year prison sentence slapped on Manila, who was convicted in 2002 for the death of his 6-month-old goddaughter.

Manila, now 56 years old, has been serving 17 years of a 60-year prison term.

In January 2016, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres decided against commutation at the advice of the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety.

Manila was 39 years old when then-Superior Court associate judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim sentenced him in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of the infant.

The baby lingered in the hospital for several days before dying on Nov. 6, 2000. The baby's parents, who are Filipinos, have six children, including the infant who died in this case.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

At the sentencing, Manila insisted he did not kill the child.

Then-chief prosecutor Clyde Lemons noted that a doctor testified that the baby had 11 bruises on the back of her head consistent with blunt force trauma or being hit with an object. Lemons said the doctor testified that the baby was shaken "very hard," consistent with shaken baby syndrome. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

2018 CNMI'S NEXT TEEN TOP MODEL

Teen pageant seeks to spread environmental awareness

Preparations are in high gear for the upcoming CNMI's Next Teen Top Model, which aims to spread environmental awareness among oung adults.

According to CNMI's Next Top Model coordinator Sharmaine Casquero, she has always instilled among participants that the focal point of the CNMI's Next Top Model is not beauty or talent, but environmental preservation.

The theme of the pageant for the past six years has always revolved around trash fashion. This year's theme is "Trash to Class" where contestants must create fashionable outfits made out of recyclable materials.

"It is about creativity, hot fashion, unique styles, and innovation," Casquero, who has been organizing this pageant for six years now, said.

Casquero is also working with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to arrange an environmental workshop for the candidates and interested individuals where they can gain a deeper understanding of environmental conservation.

Last Sunday, the Unity Lion's Club of Saipan put together an event to introduce the 16 contestants. The 16 are a mix of both males and females. The female contestants are: Lucewara Naveen, 14; Revira Trisha Jindra, 13; Cadawan Ma Valerie, 18; Sue Ann Huevos, 15; Mazie Anne Manalang, 16; Janine Magbanua Deleon Guerrero, 13; and Morzina Khan, 18.

The male contestants are Labao Jeggier, 17; Neil Camay, 16; Yads DeGuzman, 17; Joshua Magno, 18; Salvani Darl Gio, 17; Tristan Joshua Amado, 18; Macrino Carreon, 16; Francis Matthew Macaspac, 18; and Ezekiel Quiroz, 18.

The contestants performed the talent portion of the competition last Sunday night at Amari's Tavern.

According to Casquero, the awarding will be on pageant night, April 22, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, starting at 6:30pm and all guests are encouraged to dress in formal attire.

Tickets for the 2018 CNMI's Next Teen Top Model pageant have been available since March 10 and range from $10 to $20 depending on the seating.

For those interested in buying a ticket to the pageant, contact Casquero at 233-2643 or Alice Barbo through the Saipan Unity Lion's Club Facebook page. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Islandwide cleanup on April 20

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be deviating from its regular first Saturday of the month schedule in order to celebrate the 2018 Environmental Awareness Month Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, April 20, from 3pm to 4:30pm and Saturday, April 21, from 8am to 10am.

If you would like to volunteer, contact the BECQ no later than April 18, 2018, at 4pm.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact Jose Kaipat at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

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20 students inducted into MCS National Honor Society

Newly inducted members of Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society gather with current members and school officials after the 2018 induction ceremony.

MCS

Current members of Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society (left line) lead inductees (right line) in reciting the oath of membership for the society.

MCS

Twenty high school students were inducted into Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held two weeks ago at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

The inductees were selected by a faculty council that reviewed applications from sophomores and upperclassmen who had maintained a grade point average of 3.0 and had demonstrated volunteerism, exemplary behavior, and leadership.

This year's inductees are Jan Bobadilla, Kalea Borja, Amy Rose Cabanting, Rosa Castro, Viveka "Rosie" Castro, Hyo Lim Cho, Quina Flores, Jim Michael Ham, Lleyton Javier, SeoYeon Lee, Dayna Macaranas, Shana Mafnas, Erika Marie Mendiola, Justin Ocampo, Joannie Paraiso, Maria Terlaje, Christian Villacrusis, Jehnifer Villagomez, Jaden Yamagata, and Seok Jun Yun.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony, 2013 AlumKnight and former member of the Sacred Heart Chapter, Victoria Camacho Deleon Guerrero, cautioned students against serving and leading without sincerity.

Talking about her own experience in college, Deleon Guerrero shared how she found her passion to help others use their voices to tell beautiful stories. "Instead of aiming for titles and accomplishments, do the things that make you feel like you are a part of something bigger, because when you do you'll forget how it benefits you and begin to focus on how your work benefits others. …Search for your place my dear Knights and make a meaningful impact."

Victoria Camacho Deleon Guerrero, 2013 AlumKnight and former member of the Mount Carmel School Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society, delivers the keynote address at this year's induction ceremony.

MCS

After the ceremony, the inductees and their families were treated to light refreshments at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

According to one of the inductees, Seok Jun Yun, being inducted into the prestigious society filled him with pride. "I feel proud because it reflects on how hard I have worked in school." When asked why he sought membership, he said, "I wanted to be a part of something bigger than me."

Established in 1921, the National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization that recognizes outstanding high school students, with more than a million student members who demonstrate the society's trademark values of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the NHS was opened in 1997. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-18-003

LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of a lift station and forcemain, a new generator building, new and tapping into the existing forcemain. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, gate valves, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 3rd, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-003, Lower Base Sewer Phase 1- Lift Station and Forcemain"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18th, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 5th, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cugov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-015

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space may be situated within or adjacent to the warehouse. The office & warehouse must have a loading dock and parking stalls that can accommodate over-sized heavy equipment (e. g. bucket trucks, augers and backhoes). Additionally, the proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-18-015, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. Proponents shall comply to all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 28, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Acting Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org, Adrian Reyes, CUC, Power Division Engineer via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

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US govt wants Sablan detained pending trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government wants David Muña Sablan detained pending his trial on charges related to two bags he left behind in Garapan that allegedly contained chemicals used in manufacturing crystal methamphetamine.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe said that no condition of Sablan's release will "reasonably assure" the safety of the community.

Sablan's detention hearing at the U.S. District Court for the NMI will take place today, Wednesday, at 9:30am.

Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy appointed Janet H. King as counsel for Sablan.

Sablan was arrested last Thursday after the Drug Enforcement Administration filed a criminal complaint charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

He was taken before Kennedy last Friday afternoon for his initial appearance.

At the hearing, Kennedy said the court granted the U.S. Marshal Service's recommendation that Sablan be placed on full restraint based on his prior criminal history, violence or attempts to flee at the time of his arrest.

David G. Banes, the court-appointed counsel for Sablan at Friday's proceeding, stated he did not object to full restraint.

After the hearing, Sablan was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Sablan allegedly threw a backpack and a bag that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice" during a police chase in Garapan last Thursday early morning. Four police officers complained of nausea and dizziness, and vomited after they inhaled the chemicals.

Guam man accused of stealing 46 cans of corned beef

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A 35-year-old man on Guam has been charged with retail fraud for allegations that he stole two cases and 46 cans of corned beef from a market.

The Pacific Daily News reported Thursday that two New Asan Beach Market store employees said they saw the man leaving with multiple cans of corned beef on Feb. 27.

Court documents say the employees saw the man reenter the store later in the day. The employees say they confronted the man, at which point he ran and escaped.

An employee wrote down the license plate number of the car he was in and police tracked it down.

Police say the vehicle had been involved in another theft case. Officers arrested the man.

HANMI SUPPORT STELLAR MARIANAS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donates $1,000 to Stellar Marianas on March 9, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Sapan. From left are HANMI treasurer Mike Johnson, HANMI board member Nick Nishikawa, Stellar Marianas Laila Younis, HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, HANMI counsel Marcia Schultz, HANMI vice chair Wendi Herring, Stellar Marianas treasurer Myla Capilitan, and HANMI secretary Ivan Quichocho.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD-18-RFP-005

ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE MARPI LANDFILL CELL NO. 3 SAIPAN CNMI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for the **Engineering Design Services for the Marpi Landfill Cell No.3**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **March 14, 2018** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 2, 2018**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 12, 2018**. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective proposers

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 30%
4. Schedule of Completion – 20%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW18-RFP-005". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 17, 2018**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 17, 2018, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 17, 2018** – AND must be received no later than **April 27, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax (670) 664-2571

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program is in the process of preparing for submission, its FY 2019-2021 State Plan. In order to address the needs of the community related to child care services, we will be holding Listening Sessions scheduled for the following venues, dates and time:

Kagman Community Center (KCC)	**March 16, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**
Garapan Carolinian Utt	**March 27, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**
Garapan Central Park	**March 29, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**
Multi Purpose Hall	**April 17, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**
San Antonio Basketball Court	**April 19, 2018**	**6:00p.m**
Tanapag Youth Center	**April 30, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**
Tinian Venue: TBD	**May 8, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**
Rota Venue: TBD	**May 10, 2018**	**6:00p.m.**

Please join us and let us hear your comments, suggestions, and recommendations to improve child care in our community.

/s/ Robert H. Hunter
DCCA Secretary

/s/ Maribel S. D. Loste
CCDF Program Administrator

Power interruption on March 23 and 24

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Friday, March 23, and Saturday March 24, from 6am to 11am to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace six 45-foot wooden poles with concrete poles along Is Drive in North San Vicente village.

The north San Vicente Water well will be affected but not the wastewater lifts station.

Travelers commuting northbound and southbound on Isa Drive in the area of North San Vicente are asked to exercise caution when traveling through the working areas.

This pole replacement task is a subproject of the CUC Hazard Mitigation Project aimed at strengthening and hardening the power grid through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. Since the start of the project in September 2015, 352 of 787 wooden poles have been replaced.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Parayaoan passes USAF basic training

U.S. Air Force airman David Parayaoan graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Parayaoan is the son of Marco and Fe Parayaoan and nephew of Rose Garcia of Saipan. He is a 2017 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

T GALLERIA DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff and management of T Galleria present a donation of $3,000 to the 37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. T Galleria has been a major sponsor of the event for over 25 years. In photo from left are: Luis Ogo, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture program staff; Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter; Jose Tudela, DFS inventory coordinator; CCAC executive director Parker Yobei; DFS promotions specialist Marie Sablan; CCAC accountant Margaret Muna; DFS finance specialist Suzie Tighe; DFS travel industry marketing manager Kazu Koyama; DFS communications specialist Christina Foo; and DFS talent scheduling specialist Theodora Lizama.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Women's summit next week

The CNMI Women's Association and Women's Affairs Office is set to hold a two-day Women's Summit at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Themed "Press For [Continued] Progress," the summit will be on March 26 and March 27, from 7:30am to 4pm on both days. Registration ends today, March 21, 2018. You may call 233-9411 or email commonwealthwomenassociation@gmail.com to register. Registration forms can also be accessed online at https://www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen/ or in-person at the Garapan Community Development Center. ***(PR)***

JKPL open on Friday, closed on Saturday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be open on Friday, March 23, from 10am to 6pm. JKPL will close on Saturday, March 24, in observance of Commonwealth Covenant Day. For more information, call (670) 235-7323 (READ). Visit @joeten kiyu on facebook and our website at www.cnmilib.org for the latest. ***(PR)***

Kagman church to host free breakfast

Kagman Community Church in Kagman III will be having a free community breakfast this Saturday, March 24, from 9am to 9:30am and a clothing/slipper giveaway from after breakfast, 11am. Please bring a bag or box to take clothes and slippers home with you. All are welcome! ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 from 10am of March 22 to 10am of March 23. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Military training in Guam, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is conducting training at Naval Base Guam and the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 29, from noon to 11pm. Residents in the area can expect to hear an increase in Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 traffic as part of this training. These trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the islands of Guam and Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of each island. ***(PR)***

ERRATUM

US passport fee set to increase in April

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson advises the public that the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs will impose a $10-increase on the U.S. passport execution fee by April 2, 2018.

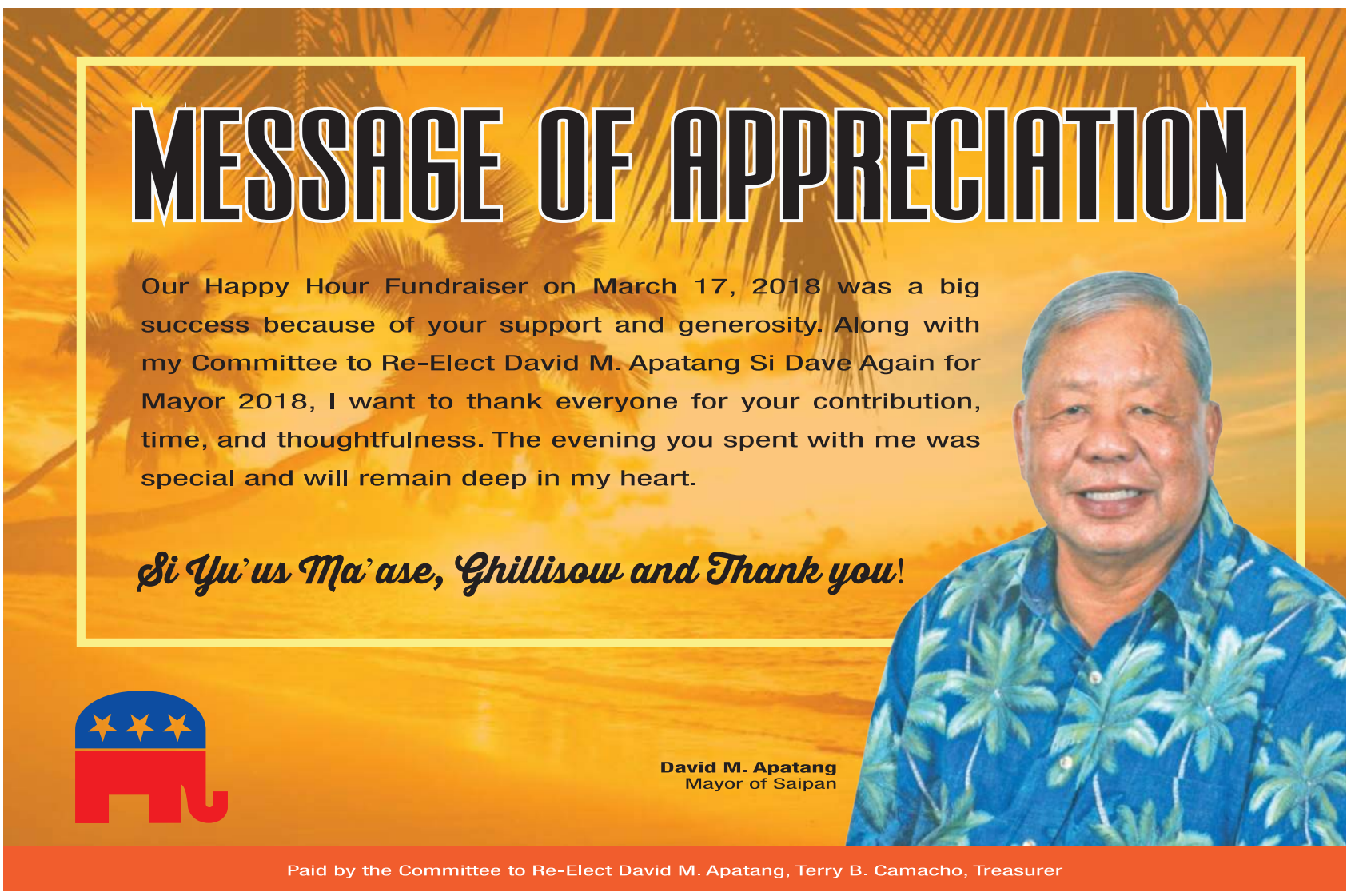
The $10 fee increase, however, does not apply to adults eligible to renew their passport by mail using the DS-82 form. Renewal customers can mail their application and supporting documentation to the Department of State and should not apply at a passport acceptance facility or pay an execution fee.

Larson clarifies, however, that all U.S. passport fees stay in the CNMI.

"At this time, the only acceptance agent is our Saipan U.S. Passport Office. Our office hours are Monday through Friday 8am to 11:30am and 1pm to 4pm," Larson said.

Applicants are encouraged to visit our Saipan U.S. Passport acceptance facility regarding any questions about first-time applicants or renewals.

The U.S. Passport Office is located at Ascension Drive Building 1321 on Capital Hill or call 664-4760 for more information on this fee increase. ***(PR)***


MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
Our Happy Hour Fundraiser on March 17, 2018 was a big success because of your support and generosity. Along with my Committee to Re-Elect David M. Apatang Si Dave Again for Mayor 2018, I want to thank everyone for your contribution, time, and thoughtfulness. The evening you spent with me was special and will remain deep in my heart.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow and Thank you!
David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan
Paid by the Committee to Re-Elect David M. Apatang, Terry B. Camacho, Treasurer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A new chapter in the never-ending toy story

Toy stores are wondrous places for 8-year-olds and for the inner 8-year-old running amok in almost all of us.

In some warehouse stores—like Toys R Us—shelves burst with shiny new baubles that overwhelm the eye, and often the credit card.

The magic has faded for Toys R Us, which is planning to sell or close all its 735 U.S. stores. Executives blame the usual suspects—discounting and overbearing retailers like Walmart, gigantic internet competitors like Amazon.com. In other words, fierce competition. Many retailers are under the same intense pressure as Toys R Us. The retail landscape shifts quickly in the internet age. That's not an omen for the future, just a fact.

Toys R Us capitalized on selection and price. But if its store presence dwindles, its customers' toy options won't. Hatchimals, Barbie, G.I. Joe, Star Wars light sabers, Hot Wheels, L.O.L. Surprise dolls and (name your favorite toy) will still be available, by click or at bricks-and-mortar stores.

With this downsizing of an empire, there should be an opening for the smaller toy stores that may have struggled to keep up with the warehouse-style stores like Toys R Us.

Maybe the fall of Toys R Us will embolden entrepreneurs to start up new stores that cater to moms and pops who crave a more manageable experience—taking a child to a neighborhood store that doesn't just pluck boxes from shelves and transport them to the cashier, but lets kids explore and, above all, play. These cozier toy tableaux—many small toy stores already are thriving—could sell more parents on less frenzy and chaos than the typical whining-on-every-aisle model.

Every store, big or small, can depend on the acquisitive instinct in every child. The tot mantra hasn't changed in generations: See it, want it, persuade parent to buy it.

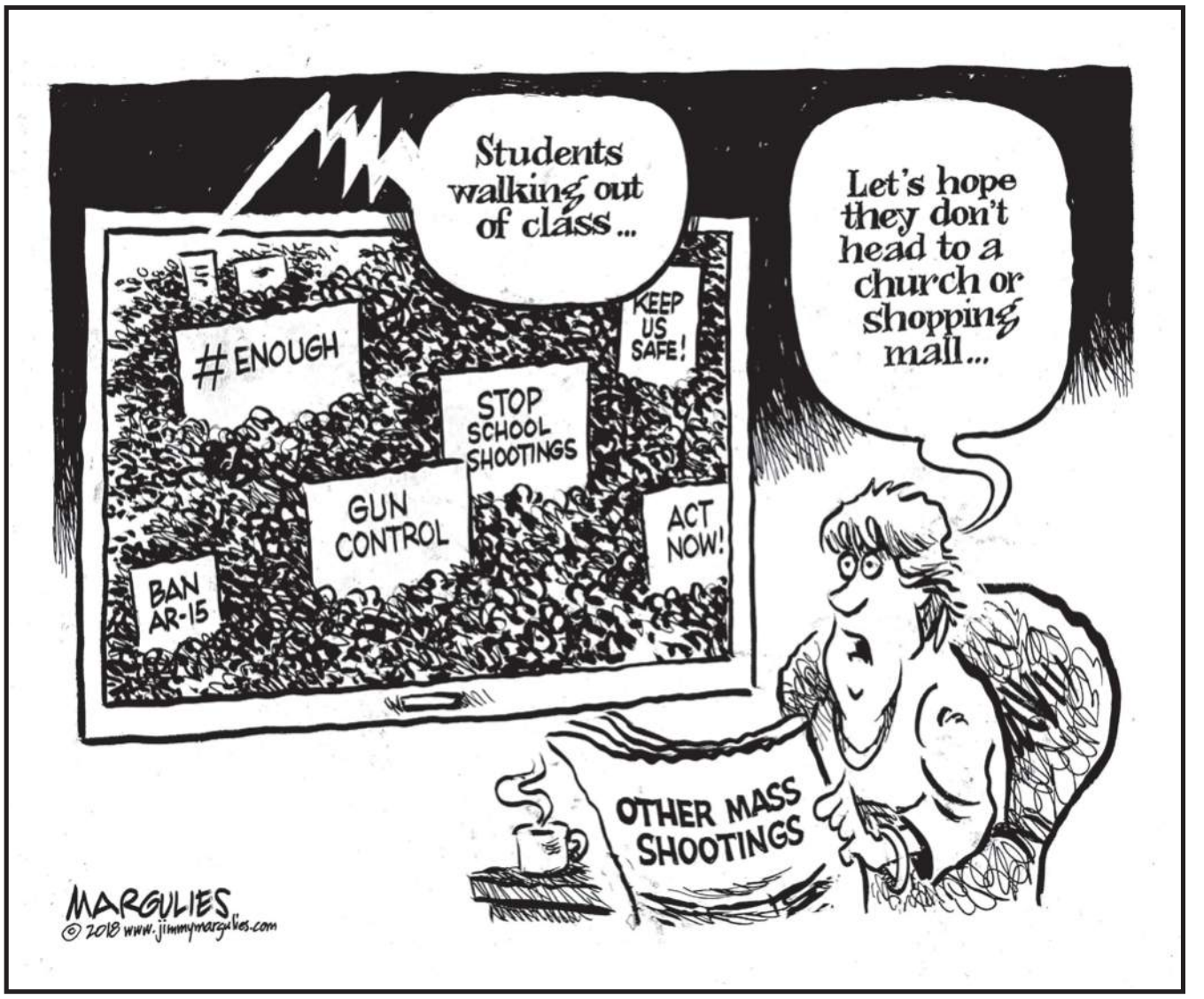
Any parent who resists that edict risks a reckoning. Smart store owners will make sure many toys are at child eye-level. Hint, hint.

Toys R Us is but the latest big toy retailer to capsize under debt and changing consumer habits. Remember FAO Schwarz, famous for its gaudy New York City flagship store where "Big" movie stars Tom Hanks and Robert Loggia danced on the floor piano?

Toys R Us bought FAO in 2009 and closed its Fifth Avenue store in 2015. But the new owner of FAO reportedly plans to open a new flagship store in Manhattan and expand the brand into airports around the world. What dies is often reborn in a different form.

As Toys R Us withers, we hope more independent toy sellers bloom. Like toys themselves, all it takes is imagination.

(c)2018 Chicago Tribune



Can Democrats reboot their old winning ways?

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.

Yes, says Democratic campaign consultant Paul Begala, "Democrats can walk and chew gum at the same time."

By which he means, yes, the party can respond to its famously diverse constituencies while also reaching out to the working-class, middle-class and mostly white voters who have swung mostly to Republicans and, most recently, to President Donald Trump since at least the mid-1960s.

That new surge of outreach optimism among Democrats like Begala follows a surprisingly strong performance by Democrat Conor Lamb in Tuesday's special election in Pennsylvania 18th District, a district that Trump won by 20 points in 2016.

Although his victory margin was as thin as a coat of paint and he still could face a recount, Lamb's win added another dramatic victory to the three high profile statewide gains that Democrats scored in Virginia, New Jersey and Alabama last year.

Suddenly the Pennsylvania race gained national importance. It jumped from a national nothing-burger to a promising indication that the Democrats might have a pulse.

Republicans spent more than $8 million on television advertising for their nominee, state House member Rick Saccone—twice as much as the Democrats did on their nominee. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and other Grand Old Party stars flew in to endorse Saccone—and he still failed to score a victory.

Democrats appear to be doing things right again. Hopes look even brighter for the "blue wave" that Democrats hope will win back at least one house of Congress and, in 2020, the White House.

But can the famously fractious liberal party pull it off without fighting too much among themselves?

The Lamb campaign reveals some new rules shaping up into a new campaign playbook for Dems who want to win:

■ Nominate a uniter, not a divider. Lamb, a 33-year-old Marine Corps veteran and former federal prosecutor, combined a strong biography with a clear economic message of the sort that Democrats failed to deliver in 2016.

■ Dance with those who brought you. Democratic and labor leaders approached Lamb about running in October, after longtime congressman Tim Murphy resigned in a scandal. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee quietly slipped his campaign an early $1 million, but the campaign deliberately avoided attracting national attention and a possible backlash from the right.

Democrats can hold the blue-collar center—again. On the issues, GOP super PAC mailers said Lamb opposed new gun laws after school shootings and that he had broken with his labor supporters by opposing a $15 minimum wage—because small businesses were against it, Lamb said. He also opposed the brief government shutdown that Democrats hoped would lead to a vote on protections for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children.

On the always incendiary issue of abortion in the pro-choice party, Lamb, a Catholic, calls himself "personally opposed to abortion" but also promises to uphold the Supreme Court and Constitution. On the party's leadership, Lamb also has said he does not support returning Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi to her post, which further enhanced his appeal as an outsider.

Yet despite these deviations from the usual party line, there was no apparent liberal backlash. Instead, various analysts noted, his turnout in Democratic Allegheny County was higher than in the more conservative parts of the district.

One caution: We're still talking about special elections, which are very hard to predict or analyze. But the apparent swing of energy and enthusiasm from the Republicans to the Democrats, quite the opposite of 2016, offers little to give Republicans comfort.

Trump's base-oriented presidency has left a lot of room in the political middle. Trump promised everything, including such contradictions as expanded health care at lower cost and tax cuts with deficit reduction. But the self-described "stable genius" is looking more like the "chaos candidates" described by his 2016 Republican rivals.

But campaigning against Trump is not enough. Democrats have to offer voters something—and someone—to vote for. Conor Lamb wouldn't be the right candidate for every district. He points the way, though, to the sort of swing voter appeal the party too often seems to forget about—until it's too late.

Si demoñu probe

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Hu guadog manu gi estorian antigu `nai gaige kantan Chamorro ni matatpañge "chant"—esalau. Hu petsige pot dumañkulu-yu` hulu` ya ti hutuñgu` na guaha nu este na modun kanta.

Hu soda` na guaha un` missinariu ginen España untat Juan Probe ha fagcha`e belan matai giya Luta gi 1602. Mañgakate familia pot pininiti. Ha tuge` si pindehu Probe na "chant" ayu na katen natibu.

Gi primet lugat, tiha tuñgu` kutturan i tanu`. Dispues, i natibu ti kumakanta gi oran finatai. `An guaha `agañg katiña ti "chant" ayu na ekspressiu. Pues si pindehu Probe tumuge` i dañkulu na linache pot Chamorro chant. Gi hilu` inosenteria `nai ha chalapun malakinemprendeña!

Mauleg sa` hita pa`gu para tana` dinanche tinige` estrañgheru ni ti kumomprende kutturan natibu. Haf` na malabidan Magellan ni fumana`an Marianas tanu` ladrones. Otru demoñio ni gumulusune guinahan tautau-ta para mantension batkoña. Mauleg sa` huhuñgog na un` dikiki` lapulapu (gadau) pumunu` si demoñu giya Filipinas.

Debi todu lepblu `nai ma-imprinta este na linache umana` fan dinanche enteru sin ditension. Ta miresi dignu na respetu kumu natibu!

Medicaid: I hospitat ha faisen i gobietnu para u apase dibin yan patten Marianas $14 miyon pesus gi programan Medicaid. Manadan tautau-ta man-kinukubre gi bandan gastun hinemlu` niha. Ti siña este ma-upus pot diskuidun hegsu` I Deni`.

Umafagcha` este yan planun subidan sueddun tautau gobietnu (cabinet). I primet sumen presisu pot hinemlu` tautau-ta. I hatsadan sueddun cabinet achog umayute` halum gi tañken basula. Umapega fondun publiku gi programan hinemlu` sin ditension!

Mauleg uma-alulaye ma-apase este na obligasion pot rason na inipus manadan dibi humohogse iya Marianas, poku mas `omenos $1.6 biyon pesus. Guaha siha para u fan masusede tat kumu hiniyuñg Delta Airlines ni siempre ha utut mas fondu gi kahan iya Marianas.

Lugat Pas: Iya Tinian afamau pot ginen ayu `nai makatga i dos balan atomic bomb ni dumestrosia Hiroshima yan Nagasaki giya Japon gi 1945. Ayu na fuetsan destrosiu muna` para i geran dos yan umestablese pas gi enteru elmundu esta pa`gu na tiempu.

Poresu na mauleg ta hatsaye monumentu iya Tinian (Peace Memorial Park) pot puntu gi estorian elmundu. Este na monumentu siempre guaha siha giya Japon mumalagu`e mañaunau gi gastun para umahatsa pot kinimiten pas.

Guaha monumente mahatsa giya Hiroshima pot pas. Megai bumisisita kada sakan ginen todu elmundu. I ta diskukute na monumentu parehu rayaña yan monumentun USS Arizona giya Honolulu. Debi parehu selebrasion seremoñas kada sakan gi todu atmos bandan Pasifiku.

Respetu: Aksidiente hu ega` Chamoru Chant ginen i sanlichan na bisinu. Hu akanteha desde palabra, tunada yan trahe.

Pinegan palabran kanta man-akontra sin koneksion yan sustansia. Pot ihemplo ilegña, "A`Saina, anite, na`e ham fuetsan mame". Siña unna daña Si Yuus yan Lusifet gi un` sakudida? Na ti kutturan relihion natibu Katoliku?

Dispues, i trahen maestru lava lava ti sadi`. Anog na mafabrika ayu na baila ya klaru na tai koneksion yan antigu na finapos mañaina-ta. Kontodu Saipan hinatme chenot mafabrikan bailan "chant". Fan gai mamahlau ya in` respeta i gai koneksion yan antigu na kutturan natibu! Muñga man-mañaluda ni ti tihuñg miyu.

Sentimentu: Pot dos besis i publiku ha chanda casino. Gi silensiun pueñge man-halum i profetan hegsu` I Deni` ya makontra dichu disision i tautau guine na asuntu. Haf` mohon gaige gi fondun konsensian tautau-ta ni kumontra este na bisnis?

Na ti diniseha trañkilu yan gasgas na minagof gi ha`anen niha ke dihemunos kau sisonyan pinepble? Na ti mapayune pinepble desde antes. Haf` baliña attifisiu na eskaleran linala` `nai abarambau kinalamten familia?

Sinake: Sige luchan para i señgsoñg dos amigu ginen Magpi. Era mapuno`guan un` tautau ni ga`ña guaka ya i dos petna ha` machule` pot no umagacha`.

`Nai mattu i dos gi menan Guma Yuus Kristo Rai guminen i tata i unu. Finaisen haf` bidadaña. Ilegña, "Pal, gaige ha` guine tatte sinaketa dos petnan guaka. Fangagau asi`i!" A`saina!

Konfisinariu: Ha faisenyu` un` atuñgu` haf` na mampos mansilensiu i tropan hegsu` I Deni`. Hu sañgane na mañgakanta "Silent Night".

Ilegña na guaha hali`e gi konfisinariun lichan parking lot Kristo Rai. Adahe na nina` fan udu pot guaha esta monhayan mañganta? Dios mihu!

Pution: Klaru yan ma`lag na pueñge. Miyon yan miyon na pution gi lañget. I uttimu na dos pajaru sige halum ginen i tasi para i fan deskansun niha. Kontentu yan katma hinasog-hu. Silensiu!

Gaige gi sanhaya pution luseru (north start). Huna` sesetbe kumu timon konsensiag-hu espirituatmiente. Hagas hu offisiona pot apmam na tiempu. Kulan palun kandet ni ma`lag gi halum barañka siha na katsada.

Dispues sige man-rikohe homhum mapagahes gi sanhaya. Ti apmam uchan gotpe ni sumuha ensegidas. Klaru ta`lu i lañget ya anog manadan pution. I tetin uchan kulan bendision.

Gaige mina` kuattu na pulan gi sanhaya. Un` dañkulu na pution kulan medision pinasensia gi tautau siha. Tatnai in` repara na desde mediu ridondu estake u gualafun metgot i pinasensia gi tautau? I atlibes, `an kanifes pues kontodu pinasensia-ta kanifes lokue`. Ti finatinas-hu este lau repara siempre in` li`e na magahet.

Dibi: Un` tiempu man-mandidibi mañaina-hu gi un` tenda. `Nai mattu dos cheluhu para u fañule` latan totche, man-maesalague ni tendera na debi mañainan mame u fan man-apase sa` "bisnis is bisnis".

Ti manman-yu` man-espiha checho`hu dispues de finagpu` eskuela. Maseha baratu na sueddu ($1.50 entalu` `las kuattru esta `las onse gi pupueñge). Estaya ti bai`n bira halum guihe na tenda man-mamiha. Esta hana` ma`ase`yu` dos cheluhu ni maesalague sa` kanaha` timatuñgu` man-huyuñg gi pettan i tenda.

Inna`e animu man-cho`chu` kada finagpu` eskuela entre manpeska gi halum tanu` yan tasi para bai`n na` guaha na`mame gi lamasan sena. Esta pa`gu na tiempu huhuñgog finu` ayu na tendera i "bisnis is bisnis". In` siñgun ayu na minamahlau pot mantaya` mame. Tat mas ke bendision I Saina!

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

US-Nokor Nuke Negotiations?

Nuke control north of Seoul, say what?

What? fire and fury finished?
Nuke fission fusion freeze?
Strategic sanctions diminished?
Pyongyang political ping pong?
Trump eats tentative Twheaties?
Rocket man new karaoke sing song?
Trump a bigly dictator fan?
Atomic bomb vomit congeals
Underneath rocket dolly wheels
Shoot em up too close to V. Putin
Xi Jin Ping closer wants no shootin
Time for some diplomacy deals
What no more or less nukes?
What no more express kooks?

What? no more Great Leaders dirty looks?
maybe time for more table tennis
led by diplomat Rodman, Dennis
played with a metal baseball bat
or bigly golf club for those too fat
how about a Korean DMZ karaoke duet
45 and Rodman sing "Hair Dye Blues"
guarantee beats "Bigger Button" hit best bet
Kim dances in red white and blue suede shoes
soldiers dance up and down the DMZ
from Vladivostok to the South China Sea
maybe food in stomachs of those not free
and open borders for every family

What? US? Korean? negotiator?
South says see you all later
no US ambassador in the South
Trump says I'll go by mouth
make America great or hater.

Oprah's rise in America

By MICHAEL CROMWELL
THE BALTIMORE SUN

It's time to take another look at Oprah Winfrey. Her rise to power and maintenance of it are instructive in what it means to be an American and what it means to succeed and survive here.

When she retired from her phenomenally successful talk show seven years ago, I doubt anyone thought that would be the last time we would see her. How could a multi-billionaire talk show host remain silent or become invisible? Since leaving her show, in fact, Ms. Winfrey has founded a cable network to go with the magazine she had already published, engaged in celebrity interviews and worked as a special correspondent for "60 Minutes."

Throughout all of these events and activities, Ms. Winfrey has been generally subtle, as much as a billionaire can be. She has not flaunted her wealth and fame, as some wealthy people can, and she has always appeared generous and grateful for what she has.

But a few months ago, there were rumblings that she might run for president in 2020. At last notice, she denied such intent, though she seems to have backers if she needs them—and even her denials have been suspect. In very recent interviews, she has suggested that she could be convinced to run by nothing short of a sign from God.

In a new film—"A Wrinkle in Time," which opened recently—she portrays nothing short of a goddess herself, a celestial being imbued with supernatural power.

I have found myself awestruck at Oprah Winfrey's mind-boggling rise to power over the years. At 64, she has gone from a poor little African American girl from the segregated American South, to the richest black person in America, according to Forbes. But how was she able to do this, why has she been the only person like her to achieve such heights, what can the rest of us learn from her, and what is in her future?

The answers to these questions will help us to better understand our country and even ourselves.

Ms. Winfrey appears to have benefited from both the civil and women's rights movements in her rise to fame and success. Also, Oprah is very good at relating to and empathizing with others, regardless of race and background. She made a living at understanding the universal human condition, as she sees it.

Moreover, in a country with a difficult racial past, Oprah negotiates race well in general, and she is a professional talker. She made a living as talker, and people of all races tuned in to hear what she had to say, about virtually anything, for decades.

She also gives people what they want, making her appear generous. This was evidenced by the famous gift giveaways to the studio audiences of her talk shows. In some cases, she would give away brand new cars to audience members. How could this not add to her likability and trustworthiness?

The secret of her success in a nutshell comes down to her—her skills and abilities. But American society has also played a role: the same American society that propelled Barack Obama to the presidency, that same society says that it will allow black people to succeed astronomically—if only individually. (Oprah, incidentally, first endorsed Barack Obama as president in 2006, before he even announced his candidacy, and he was her first political endorsement.)

What that means is that at no time in America can we expect to see a dozen Oprah Winfreys and a dozen Barack Obamas on the national stage at one time. That would be too much for the country to handle. But where does that leave Ms. Winfrey, with regard to her future, and where does that leave those of us who observe her life as instructive in some way?

I don't know. All we can do is watch and wait as Winfrey's own wrinkle in time unfolds.

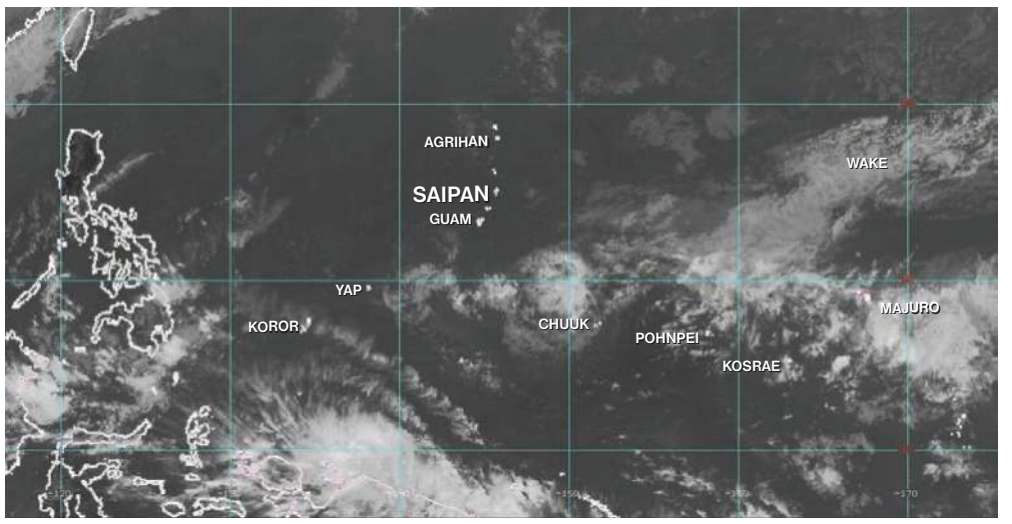
Michael Cromwell is an English teacher. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Some patchy showers across the Marianas look to be ending and then a generally dry forecast is expected for the balance of the day. The tropical disturbance to the southeast of Guam, will move more south over the next few days before finally moving westward over the weekend into early next week. It is looking less and less likely that there will be scattered showers on Friday, though the GFS still hasn`t completely ruled out the possibility come Friday night. So, for now I haven`t changed the forecast. As the disturbance moves by over the weekend into early next week, it is possible the best chance of showers comes at some point early next week, especially for Guam. However, we are still 6 to 7 days away from that, at least. Therefore, opted not to add to the forecast at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 59°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 30°
Hong Kong	Sunny	70° / 63°
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	82° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Rain	64° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Sunny	81° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 56°
New York	Cloudy	41° / 33°
Osaka	Rain	52° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	46° / 34°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	52° / 34°
Salem	Sunny	74° / 54°
San Francisco	Showers	61° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 32°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Washington, DC	Snow	39° / 28°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:10 AM	LOW TIDE	0.54
9:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
4:40 PM	LOW TIDE	0.14
10:53 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:58 am	9:49 pm	-
Thursday	9:46 am	10:47 pm	-
Friday	10:36 am	11:46 pm	-
Saturday	11:31 am	-	-
Sunday	-	12:45 am	12:28 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Trump bans US use of Venezuelan cryptocurrency

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Monday banned all use by Americans of Venezuelan cryptocurrency, saying that its introduction is intended to skirt U.S. sanctions. In a separate move, the administration also slapped sanctions on four current and former senior Venezuelan officials accused of corruption and mismanagement.

In an executive order that took effect immediately upon its issuance, President Donald Trump declared illegal all U.S. transactions related to Venezuelan digital currencies, coins or tokens. The prohibition applies to all people and companies subject to U.S. jurisdiction. The move follows the introduction last month of a Venezuelan cryptocurrency known as the "petro," for which the government says it has received investment commitments of $5 billion.

In the executive order, Trump said it was an "attempt to circumvent U.S. sanctions" imposed for democratic backsliding.

The Treasury had said in January that the petro appeared to be an extension of credit to Venezuela and warned that transactions in it may violate U.S. sanctions.

In February, cash-strapped Venezuela became the first country to launch its own version of bitcoin, the petro, in a move that President Nicolas Maduro celebrated as putting his country on the world's technological forefront.

The petro is backed by Venezuela's crude oil reserves, the largest in the world, yet it has arrived on the market as the socialist country sinks deeper into an economic crisis marked by soaring inflation and food shortages that put residents in lines for hours to buy common products.

Maduro had announced late last year that he was creating the digital currency to outmaneuver U.S. sanctions preventing Venezuela from issuing new debt.

Bitcoin and other digital tokens are already widely used in Venezuela as a hedge against hyperinflation and an easy-to-use mechanism for paying for everything from doctor visits to honeymoons in a country where obtaining hard currency requires transactions in the illegal black market.

The government has promised that Venezuelans will be able to use the $60 coins to pay taxes and for public services. But with the Venezuelan minimum wage hovering around $3 a month, it's unlikely citizens will buy in large amounts.

In its own statement on Monday, Treasury said it was hitting the four current and former Venezuelan officials with sanctions that freeze any assets they may have in U.S. jurisdictions and bar Americans from doing business with them.

The four include Americo Alex Mata, a director of Venezuela's National Bank of Housing and Habitat and coordinator of Maduro's 2013 campaign, Willian Antonio Contreras, the head of the body that oversees price controls in the country, Nelson Reinaldo Lepaje, the head of the Office of the National Treasury, and Carlos Alberto Rotondaro, the former president of the Board of Directors of the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security.

Self-driving vehicle strikes and kills pedestrian in Arizona

By FELICIA FONSECA and TOM KRISHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A self-driving Uber SUV struck and killed a pedestrian in suburban Phoenix in the first death involving a fully autonomous test vehicle—a crash that could have far-reaching consequences for the new technology.

The fatality Sunday night in Tempe was the event many in the auto and technology industries were dreading but knew was inevitable.

Uber immediately suspended all road-testing of such autos in the Phoenix area, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toronto. The testing has been going on for months as automakers and technology companies like the ride-hailing service compete to be the first with cars that operate on their own.

The Volvo was in self-driving mode with a human backup driver at the wheel when it hit 49-year-old Elaine Herzberg as she was walking a bicycle outside the lines of a crosswalk, police said. She died at a hospital.

Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi expressed condolences on his Twitter account and said the company is working with local law enforcement on the investigation.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which makes recommendations for preventing crashes, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which can enact regulations, sent investigators.

Tempe police Sgt. Ronald Elcock said local authorities haven't drawn any conclusions about who is at fault but urged people to use crosswalks. He told reporters at a news conference Monday the Uber vehicle was traveling around 40 mph when it hit Helzberg immediately as she stepped on to the street.

Neither she nor the backup driver showed signs of impairment, he said.

The public's image of the vehicles will be defined by stories like the crash in Tempe, said Bryant Walker Smith, a University of South Carolina law professor who studies self-driving vehicles.

Although the Uber vehicle and its human backup could be at fault, it may turn out that there was nothing either could have done to stop the crash, he said.

Either way, the fatality could hurt the technology's image and lead to a push for more regulations at the state and federal levels, Smith said.

Autonomous vehicles with laser, radar and camera sensors and sophisticated computers have been billed as the way to reduce the more than 40,000 traffic deaths a year in the U.S. alone. Ninety-four percent of crashes are caused by human error, the government says.

Autonomous vehicles don't drive drunk, don't get sleepy and aren't easily distracted. But they do have faults.

"We should be concerned about automated driving," Smith said. "We should be terrified about human driving."

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 02/21/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Rezone Application #2018-0706:** Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 216-2-1, EA 216-3, EA 833-12, EA 833-13, EA 833-14-1, EA 833-14-R-1, & EA 833-20 in As Perdido (Mango Resort properties), from "Village Commercial" to "Mixed Commercial" zoning district to operate a full service inpatient hospital.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2018-0748:** Share View Travel Corporation is proposing to occupy 4 existing 2-storey structures and 1 maintenance building with a total of 18 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1625 NEW-9-R2 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Communication

D. Old Business: Board decisions on the following applications heard during the Public Hearing conducted on February 21, 2018:
1. Conditional Use Application #2017-3788: Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House. (Motel)
2. Conditional Use Application #2017-4598: Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop. (Gas Station, Light Repair)
3. Conditional Use Application #2017-4958: Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc.. (Institutional Residential)

E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)
2. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) – "Amusement, Outdoor"

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

POSTPONED

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Marianas General Clinic dba Marianas Specialty Referral Hospital/Pacific Fertility Institute is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 216-2-1, EA 216-3, EA 833-12, EA 833-13, EA 833-14-1, EA 833-14-R-1, & EA 833-20 in As Perdido (Mango Resort properties), from "Village Commercial" to "Mixed Commercial" zoning district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: March 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, March 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

POSTPONED

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Share View Travel Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Share View Travel Corporation is proposing to occupy 4 existing 2-storey structures and 1 maintenance building with a total of 18 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment.. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1625 NEW-9-R2 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

POSTPONED

Nation

Victims' families urge California to end gun investments

AP
Renee Wetzel, right, whose husband died in the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack, watches as fellow family members of mass shooting victims call on California's public pension fund to stop investing in retailers that sell assault weapons in Sacramento, Calif., on Monday, March 19, 2018.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Families of mass shooting victims and others called Monday for the nation's largest public pension fund to stop investing in companies that sell assault weapons and devices that allow guns to fire more rapidly.

"Divesting in these companies that sell these weapons will send a clear message that the thoughts and prayers that are sent when these tragedies occur are not enough—the state of California is demanding change," said Renee Wetzel, whose husband, Mike, was killed in the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack. "Don't let my husband's death be in vain."

The California Public Employees' Retirement System board declined to take action and will further discuss its investments and divestments in gun-related companies next year. Several board members argued remaining an investor gives the fund more influence over shaping company policy.

Four of the five gun retailers CalPERS invests in, including Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart, have already stopped selling assault weapons and devices like bump stocks. The fund does not invest in assault weapons manufacturers.

California Treasurer John Chiang, a Democratic candidate for governor who is leading the effort, said he wants the board move forward on divesting from the fifth company, Sportsman's Warehouse Holdings. A spokesperson for the company could not immediately be reached for comment.

"At some point you have to stand up and you have to put up a big fight so people understand it's just not talk," he said.

Joining Chiang were Wetzel and about a dozen other family members of San Bernardino and other mass shooting victims, as well as California alumni of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed in February. New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois and New York also are discussing divesting from gun-related companies.

Critics called the effort a political ploy that would hurt the pension fund's bottom line.

"This is nothing more than a political ploy for you and your run for governor," said Jason Perez, a representative of the Corona Police Officers Association who said the board should focus on keeping the fund in good financial shape instead. The system has enough money to cover roughly 70 percent of the money it owes to 1.8 million members.

The retirement system has roughly $850 million in holdings in Dick's Sporting Goods, Walmart, Kroger, Big 5 Sporting Goods and Sportsman's Warehouse Holdings. The pension fund in California, which severely restricts the sale and possession of assault-style weapons, has a total value of $354 billion.

The fund approached all five companies in the fall, asking them to stop selling assault weapons and devices such as bump stocks. Following the Florida shooting, Dick's and Kroger said they would stop selling such guns and would, along with Walmart, only sell guns to those 21 and older. None sell bump stocks.

Austin carnage now random; an arrest doesn't appear close

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—William Grote says the latest attack by a suspected serial bomber that has terrorized Austin for weeks left what appeared to be nails embedded in his grandson's knees.

Police and federal agents said that the blast Sunday night triggered along a street by a nearly invisible tripwire suggests a "higher level of sophistication" than they have seen before in three early package bombs left on doorsteps, and means the carnage is now random, rather than targeted at someone in particular.

Two people are dead and four injured, and authorities don't appear closer to making any arrests in the four bombings that have rocked the capital city.

Authorities haven't identified the latest victims, but Grote told The Associated Press that his grandson was one of the two men wounded in southwest Austin's quiet Travis Country neighborhood. They suffered what police said were significant injuries and remained hospitalized in stable condition.

Grote said his grandson is cognizant but still in a lot of pain. He said the night of the bombing, one of the victims was riding a bike in the street and the other was on a sidewalk when they crossed a trapwire that he said knocked "them both off their feet."

"It was so dark they couldn't tell and they tripped," he said. "They didn't see it. It was a wire. And it blew up."

Grote said his son, who lives about 100 yards (91 meters) away from the blast, heard the explosion and raced outside. "Both of them were kind of bleeding profusely," Grote said.

That was a departure from the three earlier bombings, which involved parcels left on doorsteps that detonated when moved or opened.

The tripwire twist heightened the fear around Austin, a town famous for its cool, hipster attitude.

"It's creepy," said Erin Mays, 33. "I'm not a scared person, but this feels very next-door-neighbor kind of stuff."

Authorities repeated prior warnings about not touching unexpected packages and also issued new ones to be wary of any stray object left in public, especially one with wires protruding.

"We're very concerned that with tripwires, a child could be walking down a sidewalk and hit something," Christopher Combs, FBI agent in charge of the bureau's San Antonio division, said in an interview.

Police originally pointed to possible hate crimes, but the victims have now been black, Hispanic and white and from different parts of the increasingly diverse city. Domestic terrorism is among the variety of possible motives investigators are looking at.

Local and state police and hundreds of federal agents are investigating, and the reward for information leading to an arrest has climbed to $115,000.

"We are clearly dealing with what we believe to be a serial bomber at this point," Austin police Chief Brian Manley said, citing similarities among the four bombs. He would not elaborate, though, saying he didn't want to undermine the investigation.

While the first three bombings all occurred east of Interstate 35, a section of town that tends to be more heavily minority and less affluent, Sunday's was west of the highway. The differences in where the blasts have occurred, the lack of a motive and other unknowns make it harder to draw conclusions about a possible pattern, further unnerving a city on edge.

Needs go unmet 6 months after Maria hit Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Generators are still humming. Candles are still flickering. Homes are still being repaired.

Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria exactly six months ago, and the U.S. territory is still struggling to recover from the strongest storm to hit the island in nearly a century.

"There are a lot of people with needs," said Levid Ortiz, operating director of PR4PR, a local nonprofit that helps impoverished communities across the island. "It shouldn't be like this. We should already be back on our feet."

Some 250 Puerto Ricans formed a line around him on a recent weekday, standing for more than two hours to receive bottles of water and a box of food at a public basketball court in the mountain town of Corozal. Many of those waiting were still without power, including 23-year-old Keishla Quiles, a single mother with a 4-year-old son who still buys ice every day to fill a cooler to keep milk and other goods cold amid rising temperatures.

"Since we're a family of few resources, we have not been able to afford a generator," she said. "It's been hard living like this."

Crews already have restored water to 99 percent of clients and power to 93 percent of customers, but more than 100,000 of them still remain in the dark. Justo Gonzalez, interim director for Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, said he expects the entire island to have power by May, eight months after the Category 4 storm destroyed two-thirds of the island's power distribution system—and just as the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season is about to start.

Gonzalez also pledged to inspect dozens of wooden and cement poles still leaning haphazardly across the island after a wooden telephone pole fell on a car. It killed an elderly couple on Sunday as they returned from a town fair in the mountains of western Puerto Rico. The deaths of Luis Beltran, 62, and Rosa Bosque, 60, have angered Puerto Ricans and raised concerns about the safety of people as they recover from the hurricane.

Asia

China's Xi strikes nationalistic tone in parliament address

AP
Journalists film as Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the closing session of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping struck a strongly nationalistic tone in his closing address Tuesday to the annual session of the ceremonial parliament, saying China would never allow "one inch" of territory to be separated from it.

Speaking before the nearly 3,000 members of the National People's Congress who had earlier abolished term limits on his rule, Xi declared that the Chinese people were now "closer now than at any time in history to realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

"Maintaining national sovereignty, territorial integrity and complete unification of the motherland is the common aspiration of all Chinese," Xi said.

"In the face of national righteousness and the tide of history, all attempts or tricks aimed at dividing the motherland are doomed to failure," Xi said to loud applause. "All will receive the condemnation of the people and the punishment of history."

The Chinese people have the will and ability to "foil all activities to divide the nation" and are united in their belief that "every inch of our great motherland absolutely cannot and absolutely will not be separated from China," Xi said.

Referring to self-governing Taiwan, Xi said the mainland would continue outreach to advance the cause of "peaceful unification" with the island, whose 23 million residents are strongly in favor of maintaining their de-facto independent status.

The session had earlier approved a range of new appointments, including that of key Xi ally Wang Qishan as vice president. New ministers were also appointed and a law passed establishing a powerful new anti-corruption body to oversee the civil service.

Xi also invoked China's historical achievements in governance and culture and stressed the importance of national unity as it strove to reach new goals in poverty alleviation and economic development in coming years.

He stressed the absolute leadership of the ruling Communist Party - of which he is head - in all aspects of Chinese life, including over the 2 million-member armed forces.

Xi pledged to would lead China's 1.3 billion people into a brighter future based on its own socialist system, saying, "As long as we sincerely unite and work together, there will be no power that can stop the Chinese people from realizing their dreams!"

Xi pledged to expand the Belt and Road, his signature foreign policy initiative of building ports, bridges and railways connecting Europe with Asia—but in an apparent response to the project's critics, said China wasn't seeking hegemony.

"China's development does not pose a threat to any country," he said.

"Only those who habitually threaten others will look at everyone else as threats," Xi added.

This year's session has been dominated by the rubber-stamp body's historic move on March 11 to scrap a constitutional two-term limit on the presidency dating from 1982, enabling Xi, already China's most powerful leader in decades, to rule indefinitely.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korea prosecutors seek arrest warrant for ex-President Lee

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors have requested an arrest warrant for ex-President Lee Myung-bak over allegations of bribery, embezzlement and other charges, officials said Monday. Lee, a conservative who governed from 2008 to 2013, is the latest South Korean leader to be entangled in scandals or other problems after leaving office. Lee's conservative successor, Park Geun-hye, was removed from office and jailed last year in a separate corruption scandal. Prosecutors last month demanded a 30-year prison term for Park, the country's first female president. The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said it has asked a court to approve Lee's arrest. South Korean media say Seoul Central District Court will likely decide whether to issue an arrest warrant by Wednesday night at the earliest. Prosecutors accuse Lee of taking a total of 11 billion won ($10 million) in bribes from his own intelligence agency, business groups and a former lawmaker. Prosecutors also allege Lee used an auto parts manufacturer as a channel to establish illicit slush funds totaling 30 billion won ($28 million).

Indonesia faces challenge to seizure of yacht wanted by US

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's seizure of a luxury yacht wanted as part of a U.S. probe into the alleged multibillion-dollar theft of funds from a Malaysian state investment company is being challenged by the vessel's owner, police said Monday. National police deputy director of economic crimes Daniel Silitonga said police haven't handed the yacht over to the U.S. since its Feb. 28 seizure because they're waiting for a court hearing after lawyers for the owner of the Cayman Islands-registered Equanimity began a legal challenge. "Until now we are still awaiting the summons for a hearing," he said. "We are facing some legal issues that have to be resolved first." The Equanimity, worth $250 million, is among assets the U.S. Department of Justice alleges were bought by Malaysian national Jho Low using money stolen from 1MBD, the Malaysian fund, and laundered through Singapore, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the U.S. Indonesian police seized the 92-meter (300-foot) yacht off Bali in a joint operation with the FBI. Silitonga said he didn't yet know the basis of the lawsuit.

Indian wildlife sanctuary sees jump in one-horned rhinos

GAUHATI, India (AP)—A tiny wildlife sanctuary in northeastern India has reported a jump in the number of one-horned rhinoceroses. The survey, carried out Sunday at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, showed 102 one-horned rhinos now living in the park, up from 93 during the last count, in 2012, said Pradipta Baruah, a forestry officer who supervised the census. "Our efforts at conserving the rhino have paid off," Baruah said by phone. The reserve, which is just 38 square kilometers (15 square miles), is outside of the Assam state capital, Gauhati. India's Kaziranga National Park, also in Assam, is the main home of the one-horned rhino, with more than 2,000. More than 20 rangers were involved in the count, traversing the park's forests, grasslands and wetlands on seven domesticated Asiatic elephants. "The animals looked carefree in the wilds, lazing around shrubs and grasslands," said ranger Mukul Tamuli. Six rhinos have been poached in Pobitora since 2012, officials said, and 20 died of natural causes. All of the world's five rhino species are under threat from poachers who sell their horns on black markets, often in countries where rhino horn is believed to increase male potency.

Aum cult members face execution for Tokyo subway gas attack

TOKYO (AP)—Thirteen Japanese cult members may be sent to the gallows any day now for a deadly 1995 gas attack on the Tokyo subway system and other crimes. But when is uncertain. Such is the secrecy that surrounds Japan's death penalty system.

Tuesday marks 23 years since members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult punctured plastic bags to release sarin nerve gas inside subway cars, sickening thousands and killing 13. Cult leader Shoko Asahara and a dozen followers have been sentenced to death for that and other crimes that killed 27 in all.

At 8 a.m. Tuesday, around the time of the attack, uniformed subway employees lowered their heads in silence at Kasumigaseki station, a main target of the cult. Shizue Takahashi, the 71-year-old widow of an assistant stationmaster who died in the attack, and the current station master, placed flowers on a temporary altar set up for offerings.

"It seems the (legal) process has entered a next stage," Takahashi told reporters. "I hope (executions) are carried out in accordance with the law."

The relocation of seven of them to five detention centers outside of Tokyo last week has sparked speculation that executions could be imminent. In Japan, accomplices in a crime are customarily hanged on the same day. Ten of those on death row were convicted for the subway attack, a number beyond the Tokyo detention center's daily capacity.

As with all executions in Japan, when and where they will be killed isn't being released, even to family members and lawyers. The executions won't be announced until they have already happened.

Takahashi recently asked the Justice Ministry for a chance to meet the convicts and witness their executions. "I want to follow through to the very end," Takahashi said at a recent news conference.

Her wish is unlikely to be granted.

Even prisoners sent to the gallows are not notified until guards come to their cells in the morning. After a chat with a chaplain, a last bite or smoke, the prisoner is taken to the gallows.

If all 10 subway attack convicts are hanged, it would be the second-largest number executed on a single day in Japan's modern history. Japan on Jan. 24, 1911, hanged 11 political prisoners who allegedly plotted to assassinate the emperor.

Some survivors of the cult's crimes oppose the executions because that would eliminate hopes for a fuller explanation of the crimes.

Asahara talked incoherently, occasionally babbling in broken English, during his eight-year trial and never acknowledged his responsibility or offered meaningful explanations.

Born Chizuo Matsumoto, he has been on death row for nearly 14 years. His family says he is a broken man, constantly wetting and soiling the floor in his cell and not communicating with his family or lawyers.

His 34-year-old daughter, Rika Matsumoto, said he doesn't understand his punishment and needs treatment so he can recover and talk. "I just want to hear my father explain in his own words," she tweeted recently.

World

Spanish aid group fears migrant trafficking charges in Italy

ROME (AP)—The head of a Spanish aid group said Monday that he fears several staff members could be charged with human trafficking after they refused to hand over rescued migrants to the Libyan coast guard and took them to Italy instead.

Proactiva Open Arms founder Oscar Camps told reporters in Barcelona, Spain, where the group is based, that Italy impounded his organization's rescue boat Sunday and he is worried the ship, Open Arms, might not be returned.

The case comes amid strong reluctance in Italy to take in any more of the migrants who human traffickers launch toward Europe in unseaworthy boats. International efforts to curtail the flow have focused on Mediterranean Sea crossings from Libya and other parts of North Africa.

Italian authorities say they are investigating the aid group for suspected criminal association and aiding illegal immigration.

Proactiva said the investigation stems from a tense high-seas standoff Thursday, when the Open Arms crew refused to relinquish the 218 people they had just picked up in international waters 70 nautical miles from the Libyan coast.

Camps said as Libyan coast guard members approached, some migrants panicked, began screaming and jumped into the sea. The Libyan coast guard was "very aggressive" toward the Open Arms crew, he said, adding that his organization had "a legal duty" to rescue migrants in the Mediterranean.

AP

The founder of the Spanish NGO Proactiva Open Arms, Oscar Camps, centre, attends a media conference at the harbour in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, March 19, 2018.

Mission chief Anabel Montes, speaking by videoconference from the impounded Open Arms vessel, said armed Libyan coast guard members made death threats to the aid workers.

"We had never reached such an extreme situation like this one in which they were threatening us, saying that they were going to kill us," Montes said.

She and the Open Arms' captain are under investigation by Italian prosecutors. A third person, who hasn't been identified, is also being investigated.

Italian authorities have not publicly explained why the Open Arms was impounded and its crew members were being investigated for on suspicion of aiding illegal immigration.

In an order to seize the rescue boat, Catania prosecutors alleged the crew ignored the Italian coast guard's suggestion to request permission to dock in Malta, Italian news agency ANSA reported. The prosecutors said Proactiva and its aid workers seemed to have "the only purpose of reaching Italy," ANSA said, quoting the order.

Law enforcement officials familiar with the case and speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it suggested that the probe was more complicated than that.

One possible legal issue was whether the humanitarian group was obliged to follow the Libyan coast guard vessel's order if Libya had jurisdiction over rescues in that stretch of the sea.

The aid group spent three hours negotiating with the Libyans, Camps said. In the meantime, a vessel sent by Maltese authorities evacuated a critically ill 3-month-old baby and its mother.

Camps said the crew also contacted the Spanish and Italian navies, but received no assistance.

The Italian coast guard said it gave the Spanish boat permission to dock in Pozzallo on Friday, given the poor condition of the migrants and the worsening weather at sea.

Of the vessel's 19 crew members, three are remaining in Italy to testify and the rest are heading back to Spain, Camps said.

Trying to stem the migration to its shores, Italy has supplied Libya with patrol boats and training. The European Union has backed the arrangement, but critics have said it enriches the unreliable Libyan coast guard and sends vulnerable migrants back into slave-like conditions in Libya.

Italy says it is working with U.N. authorities to ensure humane conditions in Libya for migrants. Many have reported being held as virtual prisoners, inadequate food, sexual assaults, beatings and other forms of torture while awaiting the chance to be smuggled out by boat.

UN rights chief: Syria siege involved 'war crimes'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. human rights chief told an informal meeting of the Security Council Monday that the Syrian government's five-year siege of the Damascus suburbs of eastern Ghouta has involved "pervasive war crimes," use of chemical weapons and starvation as a weapon of war.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein was blocked from addressing a formal council meeting by a Russian procedural maneuver, but he delivered his hard-hitting speech to an open meeting anyway, decrying "mind-numbing crimes" committed by all parties in Syria using "unlawful methods of warfare."

He said multiple parties to the conflict, now in its eighth year, "claim to justify their military offensives based on their struggle against terrorism."

But Zeid said "never before have the campaigns against terrorism been used more often to justify the unconscionable use of force against civilians than in the last few months in Syria."

He was especially critical of Syria, singling out President Bashar Assad's claim that his government makes every effort to protect civilians.

The U.N.'s top human rights official dismissed it, saying: "When you are capable of torturing and indiscriminately killing your own people, you have long forfeited your own credibility."

Zeid pointed to eastern Ghouta as an example.

"The siege of eastern Ghouta by the Syrian government forces, half a decade long, has involved pervasive war crimes, the use of chemical weaponry, enforced starvation as a weapon of warfare, and the denial of essential and life-saving aid," he said.

Zeid said this has culminated "in the current relentless, month-long bombardment of hundreds of thousands of terrified trapped civilians."

"Families are now streaming out of the area," he said, "but many civilians fear reprisals will be taken against them for their perceived support for opposition groups."

Zeid stressed that "those who have perpetrated and are still perpetrating these mind-numbing crimes committed in Syria must be made to answer before a properly constituted court of law."

"This must be assured and made non-negotiable—for the victims," he said, but also for the legitimacy of the U.N. and the Security Council, and to prevent future violations and advance human rights around the world.

He again urged the council to refer Syria to the International Criminal Court.

That remains highly unlikely, however, since both Russia and China vetoed a resolution backed by more than 60 countries in May 2014 that would have referred the Syrian conflict to the ICC.

Zeid also said justice and respect for human rights must be at the center of any peace talks.

"No settlement which shields the perpetrators from prosecution is worth discussing, simply because such a settlement would be utterly empty," he said. "For peace in Syria to be meaningful and lasting, a guarantee of justice for the Syrian people must be assured."

Zeid had been scheduled to speak at an open council meeting Monday afternoon, but when it started, Russian Deputy Ambassador Gennady Kuzmin protested that it was a question for the Human Rights Council in Geneva, not the Security Council, which is charged with ensuring international peace and security.

German, Polish leaders discuss EU unity on sanctions, ex-spy

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday she would be pleased if Poland's talks with the European Union yielded a solution to the standoff over the country's rule of law record.

During a brief visit to Warsaw, Merkel said she was following the negotiations to avert unprecedented EU sanctions over changes to Poland's judiciary pushed by its conservative government.

"I would be pleased to hear the European Commission say that the talks were fruitful," Merkel said following talks with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

Morawiecki said there was "light in the tunnel" but that an agreement to resolve the dispute over Poland's judicial system "requires understanding on both sides."

The EU triggered a censure procedure in December that could lead to potential sanctions over Poland's judicial overhaul. The European Commission said at the time it was putting Poland on notice that it was at risk of contravening EU law.

However, the leaders of Poland and Germany said Monday that Europe needs unity to be strong. They stressed agreement on issues such as economic cooperation and providing more support to countries that have received the most migrants since a new wave of mass immigration got underway in 2014-2015.

"In the face of the global situation, we understand that our voice will be strong if we have a strong alliance, if we act jointly," Merkel said.

Morawiecki and Merkel also discussed Europe's response to the poisoning in Britain this month of a Russian ex-spy and his adult daughter.

Merkel said she expects European Union leaders to reach "strong conclusions" about the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, during a summit this week in Brussels.

Significant information points to Russia's responsibility for the nerve agent attack and it's now up to Moscow to prove it wasn't involved, the German chancellor said.

Morawiecki said the entire EU needs to give a firm response so "the Russian aggressor will know that it cannot permit itself to attack a NATO member state, an EU member state."

Russia has rejected allegations that it was behind the poisonings.

Focus

In this March 7, 2018 photo, Gabriel Jimenez, behind, jokes with one of his employees at the office of his company "The Social Us" in Caracas, Venezuela. Jimenez, 27, was catapulted to something of tech stardom in Venezuela last month when he stood alongside President Nicolas Maduro and two Russian businessmen on national TV signing a contract to position the petro, as the fledgling cryptocurrency is known, among international investors. AP

Maduro's cryptocurrency 'genius' once pushed US sanctions

By JOSHUA GOODMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A chief strategist of Venezuela's government-backed cryptocurrency is a former U.S. congressional intern who once organized protests against the same socialist administration he's now helping to circumvent U.S. financial sanctions.

Gabriel Jimenez, 27, was catapulted to something of tech stardom in Venezuela last month when he stood alongside President Nicolas Maduro and two Russian businessmen on national TV signing a contract to position the petro, as the fledgling currency is known, among international investors.

"It's a company founded and led by young Venezuelan geniuses, boys and girls of Venezuela, who have one of the most technologically advanced blockchain companies in the world," a beaming Maduro said at the petro's unveiling, referring to Jimenez's company, The Social Us.

It was a remarkable reinvention for Jimenez.

Maduro has repeatedly hailed the petro, the world's first state-backed digital currency, as a way to "overcome the financial blockade" by the Trump administration that prevents his cash-strapped government from issuing new debt. On Monday, the Trump administration banned Americans from dealing in Venezuelan cyrptocurrencies benefiting the government.

But Jimenez until recently had been agitating for the very same actions to punish Venezuela's leader for jailing his opponents and destroying the oil-rich economy.

A lawyer by training who describes himself as an "innovation enthusiast," Jimenez spent several years working at a Dominican Republic-based bank where his father was a top manager. The bank collapsed in 2014 and his father was among several Venezuelan executives charged by the Caribbean nation with defrauding depositors of $30 million.

After college Jimenez also started traveling to the U.S. for English and summer graduate classes at Harvard and George Mason Universities. In 2013, he started The Social Us, registering the company in Florida, as a webpage and app developer.

In 2014, Jimenez worked five months as an intern in Washington for Miami Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, one of Maduro's fiercest critics. A handwritten survey he filled out upon being hired, a copy of which was provided by her office, listed in broken English that his goals for the internship were gaining "knowledge and experience about the defence of democracy."

Colleagues remember him as a spirited anti-government crusader who helped organize a caravan, known as the Trip For Freedom, in which thousands of Venezuelan exiles traveled by bus to Washington to pressure the Obama administration to slap sanctions on Maduro's government. In photos of the event, he can be seen standing on a podium with Ros-Lehtinen at the Capitol addressing supporters in front of an American flag and photos of Venezuelan students allegedly tortured by security forces.

Now his former boss thinks he or anyone else behind the petro should be considered for sanctions too.

"Gabriel came to our office and said he wanted to learn how to support freedom and democracy," Ros-Lehtinen said in a statement. "Instead, it appears he is using the freedoms that the United States provided him in order to help advance the Maduro regime's attempts to consolidate power and destroy Venezuela's democratic institutions. Those who work to support the Maduro regime and provide it a financial lifeline have chosen their lot and should expect to face the full consequences of turning against their people."

Jimenez in an interview defended his work for the government as serving a greater, non-political purpose: to empower Venezuelans struggling to feed themselves amid four-digit inflation.

He said his work on what would become the petro began when he returned to Venezuela in 2015 and banded together with other tech entrepreneurs to design a digital currency. The group then looked to partner with the government in the hopes of bringing Venezuelans' underground trading in cryptocurrencies out from the shadows and into legal circulation. At the time, bitcoin miners faced the threat of arrest or extortion by government agents.

If the petro takes off, he says, Venezuelans will be able to freely exchange their worthless bolivars for a more stable currency, giving them a chance to raise capital and save. Currently the only way for the majority of Venezuelans to get around strict currency controls imposed in 2003 is to buy hard currency in the illegal black market.

"This is about providing oxygen to people, not a government," Jimenez said in an interview at the bustling Caracas office of The Social Us, where a dozen young programmers scrawled code in pink markers on glass windows overlooking a verdant valley and busily designed promotional materials for the petro.

It's a trade-off that many in Venezuela's burgeoning blockchain community—almost all of them ideologically opposed to the government—are willing to accept.

Still, there's no denying the government will be the first and perhaps biggest beneficiary.

This month, Maduro said the government had received commitments from investors to purchase $5 billion worth of the cryptocurrency during the pre-sale phase that culminates this week. If those materialize into actual sales, it would be a windfall equivalent to more than half of Venezuela's dollar reserves—money the government is desperately clutching onto as it juggles re-paying billions in defaulted bonds while trying to eradicate widespread shortages.

However, members of the U.S. Congress are pushing for a robust response, fearing that other nations under U.S. sanctions such as Iran and Russia could emulate Venezuela's example, or that the petro could be used by criminal networks or corrupt officials to launder money.

Of the two Russians who also signed agreements with the government to help develop the petro one, Denis Druzhkov, CEO of a company called Zeus Trading, was fined $31,000 and barred from trading for three years by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for fraudulent trading in futures' contracts. The other, Fedor Bogorodskiy, lives in Uruguay and was described by the government as director of a company, Aerotrading, whose website consists of a single home page with no company information.

Neither would comment on their work with the Venezuelan government. But in response to the request for comment, an email signed by "Zeus Team" said that Druzkhov had been invited to Venezuela as an expert and Zeus is not working on the project. It also said that as part of Druzhkov's settlement with the Mercantile Exchange in 2014, he did not admit to any rule violations.

On Monday, President Trump signed an executive order immediately banning all use by Americans of Venezuelan digital currencies, coins or token issued on behalf of the Venezuelan government.

A senior administration official told journalists Monday that while the U.S. can't block Venezuela from developing the petro, the global reach of the American financial system means its ban will have far-reaching consequences around the world and may force other countries to follow suit.

Sen. Bob Menendez, who as the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has led the effort to combat Venezuela's use of cryptocurrencies, applauded the move.

"Beyond sanctions evasion, the Petro was hand-tailored to perpetuate the money laundering and plundering of public resources that has tragically led Venezuela to economic ruin." He said in a statement.

Jimenez, whose preference for sneakers and jeans exude a sort of nerd aesthetic not unlike his entrepreneurial role models in Silicon Valley, said he never intended to help circumvent U.S. sanctions. He also argues that the petro—a financial product that doesn't generate interest or have a payback schedule like a bond—doesn't qualify as the sort of debt instrument the Trump administration had been targeting.

Instead, he talks of "democratizing" access to global financial system for struggling entrepreneurs and decentralizing Venezuela's government-run foreign exchange system, which many blame for the economy's depressed state.

"We can't just sit here with our arms crossed, with all that we, our friends and our family are going through," he said. "Doing nothing would be irresponsible."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING

Sarah Eve, stunning pink Virginia sweetspire

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Sarah Eve is mesmerizing; it's the first pink selection of Virginia sweetspire. It was introduced by Woodlanders, Inc. in Aiken South Carolina but discovered by Nancy Bissett of The Natives Inc. in central Florida and named for her daughter. Woodlanders describes the flowers as white but with pink pedicels making the long dangling racemes or blooms look pink.

We planted it a few years when I was with the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah. We placed it close to the entrance of the shade garden, and it has been stellar. When in bloom you'll know from a distance that you are looking at a Virginia sweetspire that is something special. It reaches 4 to 5 feet in height with an equal spread.

If you have never grown a Virginia sweetspire also called Virginia willow, I would ask, why not? They are known botanically as Itea virginica and native from Texas to Illinois to Pennsylvania and southward to Florida. That is a vast area geographically, and they are cold hardy from zones 5-9. "Itea" is Greek for willow, and although it is not a willow, its graceful habit and sweetly fragrant flowers will make it a natural for your woodland gardens and paths.

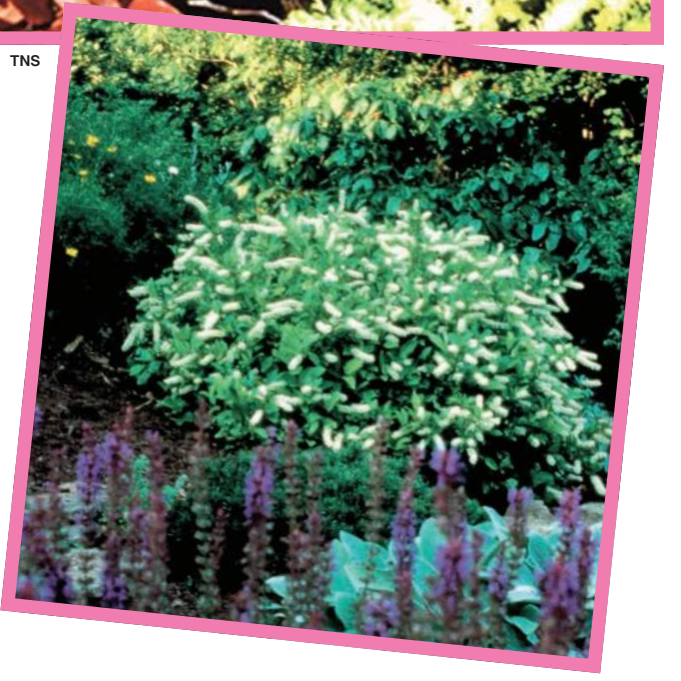
To be honest I don't think I have ever met a Virginia sweetspire selection or generic that I did not like. The award-winning Henry's Garnet and Little Henry a compact version are-both dazzling in the landscape with their fragrant white flowers hanging downward in spires and bringing in the pollinators. Reports say Longspires has the longest blooms and Saturnalia even more sensational in fall color.

Little Henry Virginia sweetspire shows out its terrific fall color.

TNS

Virginia sweetspires usually bloom in April and May though I photographed Sara Eve in full bloom last March 14 in Savannah. The long, white or pink flower spires brighten up shady areas as clumps produce hundreds of blooms.

All Virginia willows have handsome dark-green foliage until fall when it turns into striking shades of red-purple and burgundy. I've seen Henry's Garnet and Little Henry both flaming in fall color that persists for months, maybe all winter in the lower South.



Little Henry is a dwarf or compact variety of Virgina sweetspire.

TNS

The gorgeous clump-forming shrub has other excellent virtues. It is disease and insect resistant. It thrives in moist, heavy soils, yet has proven to thrive in heat and drought conditions. It is considered evergreen with temperatures from 15 to 20 degrees and deciduous in colder climates and has recovered from temperatures as cold as minus 20 degrees F.

It forms additional clumps by spreading underground stems. It is not hard to keep in bounds or maintained. Pruning will help you develop the desired arching, mounding shrub look versus a thicket or briar appearance.

The ideal location would be in a naturalistic area where they receive morning sun and afternoon shade. They combine beautifully with the Encore azaleas late booming group like the pink Autumn Carnival or red Autumn Bravo.

If you choose a shadier location, the growth habit will be more open and sparse, while in a full sun site it will be bushier and require more water. The best time to fertilize is late winter. Use a cup of a slow release balanced fertilizer around evenly under mature plants.

Spring is coming and now would be a great time to start searching out a source for your Sarah Eve or one of the other great selections of Virginia sweetspire like Henry's Garnet or Little Henry. There are natives that deserve a place in the landscape, and the Virginia sweetspire is among the best.

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

†ROY DIAZ RECHEBEI
AUGUST 23, 1974 – MARCH 11, 2018

A **Memorial Service** for
†Roy Diaz Rechebei
will be held at the
Borja Funeral Service
Divine Mercy Chapel,
Chalan Kanoa
Saturday, March 24, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Si Yu'us Ma'åsi',
Kom Kmal Mesulang, Thank You

Ramon and Elizabeth D. Rechebei,
Rowena R. Camacho, and Family

In Celebration of His New Life

JOAQUIN SABLAN TORRES

Lovingly Known as "Jack"

Born to life on May 26, 1947, called to his eternal home on March 11, 2018

In his new life, he now joins:

Parents: †William S. Torres & †Rosa S. Torres
Siblings: †Elizabeth S. Torres-Untalan & Angel Brother †Joaquin S. Torres
Nephew: †William Gerard Torres

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Loving & caring wife Dianne Verdejo-Torres (DJ, Nico, Andrei, & Lane), **and children Joseph Oldham Torres** (Jeric, Jack, Jessalyn, Aulani, & James), **Neil Howard Torres** (Kayani Kinai), and **Suzanne Marie Torres-Pangilinan** & Edward Pangilinan (Sania & Edward)

Siblings & In-Laws:

Juan S. Torres & Janet F. Torres, Children, & Grandchildren
Maria T. Persson & Jon G. Persson, Children, & Grandchildren
†**Elizabeth S. Torres-Untalan** & Pedro T. Untalan, Children, & Grandchildren
Ramon S. Torres & Lillian Wong
William S. Torres & Priscilla M. Torres, & Children

In his new life, Jack is remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Guam and abroad.

Eucharistic celebration is offered daily at Kristo Rai Parish Church at 6:00 a.m. from March 13 to 20, 2018.

Responso and Rosary will begin at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Kristo Rai Parish. Mass of Christian Burial will immediately follow at 10:00 AM.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Wife Dianne, Children, Grandchildren and Family

Life & Style

John Cena shares his love for kids and how they inspire him

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP
In this March 11, 2017 file photo, John Cena hosts the Kids› Choice Awards in Los Angeles. Cena will return as host for the 2018 Kids› Choice Awards on Saturday.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Cena has no children of his own, but the WWE superstar has practically dedicated his work to kids.

Cena has fulfilled nearly 600 wishes for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, more than any other celebrity. He's hosting the Kids' Choice Awards Saturday on Nickelodeon—one of three projects in the works with the children's network. He's also lending his voice to a new animated series and will be producing a new kids' competition show called "Keep it Spotless."

The 40-year-old entertainer is also branching out in print, with his first children's book, "Elbow Grease," about an undersized monster truck with big determination. It is set for release in October.

He talked with The Associated Press about his abiding love for children.

AP: What's it like working with Make-A-Wish?

Cena: I try to put myself in that perspective of if I had one thing to wish for, where would I fall on that list? I don't know exactly if I'd be in my top 100. So for me to be the name of like, 'I would like to hang out with this person for the day,' that's a pretty strong statement... It really is pretty magical when they get a really intimate experience with the individual and then they get to go see them be a superhero (in a WWE performance). I'll do that as long as I can, as long as they're asking me to do it.

AP: Why do you think you connect so much to kids?

Cena: One, I just have nonstop energy. I love energy and I love excitement, and I think kids have the same. They have such a lust for life, such an honest and genuine attack on every day. And their responses, too, their emotions: They don't hide how they feel. You can tell when a child is embarrassed. You can tell when they're excited. You can tell when they're happy, and you can tell when something you do makes them happy.... I love that honesty. I think that's really what connects me to young people, is they're not trying to shade you with anything. They'll give it to you straight.

AP: What can you say about your new children's book?

Cena: It takes from the activity I had with my brothers growing up in a family of five boys: a lot of roughhousing, a lot of harassment—and I mean that in a brotherly way—a lot of constant sizing each other up. But at the same time it's about the values that it's taken me four decades on this planet to learn, like don't be afraid to try something new, because if you don't try anything new, you'll never learn anything. Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone. Never take someone else's estimation of, 'You're not good enough' or 'You're not big enough' as final, just use it as motivation to try to keep pushing forward... So this little 18, 19-page book kind of gives all of those lessons at once, and I'm very, very proud of it.

AP: You're playing a dad with a teenage daughter in the new film "Blockers," opening April 6. How was it to express such vulnerability onscreen?

Cena: I think there's a certain amount of intrigue in like, well what does a big guy really, really act like? Are they really that jaded and hard-edged, or are they actually human beings? I'm a human being, I really am. I'm much more of a softie than I am Clint Eastwood in 'Dirty Harry." So any chance I get to do something like I'm doing in 'Blockers,' where the guy is just a fit guy but he's a stay-at-home dad... I don't mind being vulnerable, I don't mind showing that because it develops plot of story, it develops sympathy, and you genuinely feel like I can relate to this person, even though it's this big guy who I have no connection with.

AP: How have you been able to find such purpose in your work?

Cena: I've swung and missed so many times, I'm glad nobody is keeping track except me. I think with failure comes embarrassment and comes humility. A lot of the reason we spend valuable minutes wandering away from purpose is because we're always afraid about what people will say and what people will think... I stopped caring about what other people thought and started caring about, like, what am I going to do that's going to make my life happy and make my life effective? ...Maybe that's why I'm trying all this crazy stuff: doing comedy, doing a little bit of acting, reading the news, hosting some TV shows, doing animated stuff, doing WWE still. It's because those things make me happy and I'm not worried about—I feel confident in the performance I've given. I just try to do my best.

John Oliver spoofs Pence picture book about bunny

NEW YORK (AP)—John Oliver has trolled his way to the top.

The HBO host's spoof of a new picture book by the wife and daughter of Vice President Mike Pence was No. 1 on Amazon.com and out of stock as of midday Monday.

"Marlon Bundo's Day in the Life of a Vice President" is a tribute to the Pence family's beloved rabbit. It was written by the vice president's daughter, Charlotte Pence, and illustrated by his wife, Karen Pence. Oliver's book, which he announced over the weekend, is called "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver Presents a Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo." The story is the same, almost: This Marlon Bundo has fallen for a male bunny.

"There are a few small differences between the two books," Oliver said on his show, noting Pence's opposition to gay marriage and other LGBTQ rights. "This is a sweet story about Marlon Bundo falling in love."

Published by Chronicle Books, the parody was written by "Last Week" contributor Jill Twiss and illustrated by EG Keller. Proceeds are being donated to The Trevor Project, a suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth, and AIDS United.

It's not the only current best-seller inspired by the Trump administration. No. 2 on Amazon was James Comey's "A Higher Loyalty," the upcoming memoir by the FBI director fired last year by President Donald Trump. At No. 3 on Monday was "Russian Roulette," in which Michael Isikoff and David Corn investigate Trump's alleged ties to Russia.

The Pence book, meanwhile is a best-seller, too, ranked No. 11 on Amazon.

Steve Wynn settled with second woman over sex allegations

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Embattled casino mogul Steve Wynn brokered a settlement more than a decade ago with a second woman who accused him of sexual misconduct and recently reported her to the FBI, his attorneys say in court documents.

Wynn and one of his attorneys met with FBI agents last month to accuse the woman of trying to extort him by threatening to go public with details from the 2006 settlement, according to documents received earlier this month in state court in Las Vegas.

It comes two months after the Wall Street Journal reported that several women said the billionaire harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a $7.5 million settlement with a manicurist formerly employed by the company. He resigned as chairman and CEO of Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts last month.

Wynn

Wynn has vehemently denied the accusations reported by the newspaper and attributed them to a campaign led by his ex-wife. Her attorney has denied that she instigated the report.

The recent court filings do not provide details of the newly revealed settlement. The woman on Monday did not return a message seeking comment from The Associated Press, which generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual misconduct.

Her attorney, Lisa Bloom, said in an email that her client denies the extortion allegations.

"My client, who wishes to remain anonymous at this time, has never committed any act of extortion," she wrote. "To the contrary, she simply stated that she wanted to speak. Her emails did not seek any money. And that is surely why the FBI has not even questioned her about this, nor has she not been charged with any crime."

The FBI declined to confirm Monday whether it has investigated the extortion accusations. A declaration by one of Wynn's attorneys, Donald Campbell, says the FBI notified him on Feb. 10 that it had "concluded its investigation."

'Sex and the City' star Cynthia Nixon running for governor

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Former "Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon is running for New York governor.

Nixon

After flirting with a run for months, Nixon tweeted Monday that she will challenge Gov. Andrew Cuomo in New York's Democratic primary in September.

It sets up a longshot bid pitting an openly gay liberal activist who has never held political office against a two-term incumbent with a $30 million war chest and possible presidential ambitions.

Her campaign website said Nixon won't accept any corporate contributions and will limit contributions from any individual or organization to $65,100 for the election cycle.

"We want our government to work again. On health care, ending massive incarceration, fixing our broken subway," Nixon said in a video announcing her candidacy . "We are sick of politicians who care more about headlines and power than they do about us."

Nixon has her work cut out for her. A Siena College poll released Monday showed Cuomo leading her 66 percent to 19 percent among registered Democrats, and by a similar margin among self-identified liberals. Nixon did a little better among younger and upstate Democrats but didn't have more than a quarter of either group.

The poll of 772 registered voters was conducted March 11-16. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Nixon in recent months has given speeches and interviews calling on Democrats nationally to run "bluer" in 2018 and carve out a strong, progressive liberal identity rather than being merely "the anti-Trump party."

"It could be a fight for the soul of the Democratic Party in some sense," said Baruch College political scientist Douglas Muzzio.

Woman says Steven Seagal sexually assaulted her at audition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman on Monday said she was a 17-year-old model and aspiring actress when Steven Seagal sexually assaulted her at a supposed casting session at a Beverly Hills hotel room in 2002.

Faviola Dadis was emotional but composed as she spoke at a news conference in Los Angeles, becoming the latest of several women to accuse the action star of sexual misconduct.

Dadis said Seagal reached under her bikini top, grabbed her nipples and then grabbed her genitals soon after the audition began. She said she promptly ended the audition and left deeply shaken.

AP

Former model Faviola Dadis, left, reads from a statement at a news conference with her attorney, Lisa Bloom, center, in Los Angeles Monday, March 19, 2018. Dadis, an aspiring actress says she was 17 when actor Steven Seagal sexually assaulted her during a supposed casting session in 2002. At right, Regina Simons who has also accused Seagal of sexual misconduct.

"I have suffered from depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress, have found it difficult to form trusting relationships with men," Dadis said through tears as she read from a written statement.

She recently filed a report with police, and Los Angeles prosecutors said Monday that her case is under review.

Dadis spoke at the news conference alongside her attorney, Lisa Bloom, and another woman, Regina Simons, who said Seagal sexually assaulted her in 1995 when she was 18, allegations she previously made on NBC's "Megyn Kelly Today" in January.

Seagal's attorney Anthony Falangetti said the actor adamantly denies the allegations.

"These claims by the two women who spoke today are completely fictitious and totally made up," Falangetti told The Associated Press in a phone interview later Monday.

He said it was implausible that either woman ended up unaccompanied with Seagal in the ways they said they were.

"Neither one of their accounts is at all believable," Falangetti said.

Dadis, now a 33-year-old doctoral candidate in clinical neuroscience, said she had recently moved to the U.S. from the Netherlands when a music producer introduced her to Seagal. After several phone calls and text messages, Seagal invited Dadis to a hotel room in Beverly Hills for the late-night casting session for a film he planned to make about Genghis Khan, Dadis said.

Dadis brought a family friend because her mother was suspicious, but the person stayed in the lobby and she ended up in a room with only Seagal and his personal security guard.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jim Carrey criticized for portrait believed to be Sanders

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jim Carrey is being criticized on social media for a portrait he painted that is believed to be White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. The actor and comedian on Saturday tweeted the painting with the caption: "This is the portrait of a so-called Christian whose only purpose in life is to lie for the wicked. Monstrous!" Some Twitter users accused Carrey of shaming because of the unflattering portrait. Others were critical of his use of Christian. A spokeswoman for Carrey confirms it is his painting. But she would not confirm it is Sanders.

Singer Trey Songz arrested on allegations of punching woman

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say R&B singer Trey Songz has been arrested on suspicion of punching a woman at a Los Angeles party. Officer Drake Madison says Songz, whose real name is Tremaine Neverson, turned himself in at a Hollywood police station Monday. He's accused of felony domestic violence. Jail records show the 33-year-old was released about two hours later on $50,000 bail. Andrea Buera told reporters last week that she was the woman Songz had assaulted. Buera said he punched her repeatedly because he was upset she was talking to another man at a party Feb. 18. The singer tweeted Monday that he was being falsely accused for someone else's personal gain. His attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, accompanied him when he surrendered. Asked for comment, she replied that "Trey's tweet this morning sums it up."

Fifth Harmony going on 'hiatus,' members to go solo

NEW YORK (AP)—Fifth Harmony is going on "hiatus." The girl group announced Monday on Twitter that Ally Brooke, Normani Kordei, Dinah Jane and Lauren Jauregui will pursue "solo endeavors." The group says the break will allow them "to gain new experiences, strengths and perspectives that we can bring back to our Fifth Harmony family." The group says it will perform remaining 2018 shows. Camila Cabello left the group in 2016. The singers auditioned as solo artists on "The X Factor" in 2012, but they were formed into a group and finished third in the competition. Fifth Harmony released their debut album "Reflection" in 2015. They released their third album "Fifth Harmony" in 2017

Scandal-hit Weinstein Co. files for bankruptcy protection

NEW YORK (AP)—The Weinstein Co. filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday with a buyout offer in hand from a private equity firm, the latest twist in its efforts to survive the sexual misconduct scandal that brought down co-founder Harvey Weinstein, shook Hollywood and triggered a movement that spread out to convulse other industries.

The company also announced it was releasing any victims of or witnesses to Weinstein's alleged misconduct from non-disclosure agreements preventing them from speaking out. That step had long been sought by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who filed a lawsuit against the company last month on behalf of its employees.

"Since October, it has been reported that Harvey Weinstein used non-disclosure agreements as a secret weapon to silence his accusers. Effective immediately, those 'agreements' end," the company said in a statement. "No one should be afraid to speak out or coerced to stay quiet."

In a statement, Schneiderman praised the decision as "a watershed moment for efforts to address the corrosive effects of sexual misconduct in the workplace."

The movie and TV studio becomes the first high-profile company to be forced into bankruptcy in the nationwide outcry over workplace sexual misconduct. Dozens of prominent men in entertainment, media, finance, politics and other realms have seen their careers derailed, but no other company has seen its very survival as tightly intertwined with the fate of one man as the Weinstein Co.

Some 80 women, including prominent actresses, have accused Harvey Weinstein of misconduct ranging from rape to harassment. Weinstein, who was fired as his company's CEO in October, has denied any allegations of non-consensual sex.

The Weinstein Co. said it has entered into a "stalking horse" agreement with an affiliate of Dallas-based Lantern Capital Partners, meaning the equity firm has agreed to buy the company, subject to approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.

Man wrestles with coming clean about his infidelity

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my wife for 10 years. We have two beautiful daughters and have always had a great relationship.

Last month I was invited to go on a trip overseas and was hesitant about asking my wife. Once I did, she immediately said yes and told me to have a good time on the trip. She recently chose a career in the military and is away from home now.

While I was in Europe, I had three affairs and, at the time, enjoyed them. But Abby, this is not the man I am! I always maintained that I'd never, ever do something like that, and I'm still in shock that I did. My excuse at the time was that I was used to having a woman around me, and that I was compensating for my wife's absence. While that's no excuse, I have been dealing with my guilt by shedding tears because I love my wife so much.

Should I tell her what I did? I know it will never happen again, and I don't want her to resent me. Some people have told me not to say anything, while others say I should. What should I do?

HURTING HUSBAND

DEAR HURTING HUSBAND: I don't know how many people you have confided in about this besides me, but the larger the number, the greater the chances are of word getting back to your wife about what happened in Europe.

Because what happens in Europe DOESN'T always stay in Europe, unlike Las Vegas, the first thing you should do is be tested for STDs to guarantee you didn't bring an unwanted "souvenir" home with you. If you are clean, discuss this with your religious adviser, if you have one. Justify it however you may wish, but what you did in Europe was a moral failure.

Because of her military career, your wife may have to be absent for various periods of time. How would you feel if the situation was reversed and SHE had numerous affairs while she was gone? It may be time for both of you to recommit to each other if your marriage is to survive. And the place to start is to be honest with each other, but not while your wife is deployed.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's 45-year-old sister-in-law recently got a boob job. She's a professional woman who used to be very conservative. Now she comes to family dinners wearing clingy low-cut shirts that leave little to the imagination. (Once she almost fell into the paella.)

My husband, teenage sons and I are uncomfortable. Does she want us to comment on them? She clearly wants them noticed, based on her attire. I'd ask her to cover up, but is that appropriate? She is very easily offended. If I do, it will likely be our last conversation.

EMBARRASSED IN MONTANA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: While it would be nice if you could talk to your sister-in-law about this, because you can't, I'll offer another solution: When she's coming for dinner, crank the thermostat WAY DOWN. And if she indicates that she's chilly, offer her a sweater. Problem solved.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SO FAR, I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH FUN AS A TIGER.
I THOUGHT WE'D BE ROMPING AROUND THE WOODS LIKE WE ALWAYS DO, BUT IT TURNS OUT TIGERS DON'T SHARE THEIR TERRITORIES WITH OTHER TIGERS.
SO HERE WE ARE, SITTING ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF A BIG ROCK. WHAT A BLAST.
BEING A TIGER JUST ISN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.
THAT'S NOT THE HALF OF IT. IT SAYS HERE WE'RE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

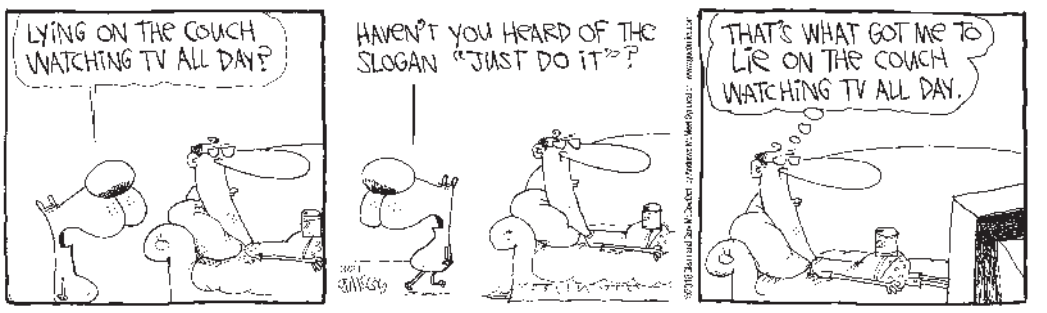
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ALL DID YOU BUY ONLINE? THIS IS CRAZY!
ASSORTED GOODS... COOL STUFF...
THERE'S A RECEIPT FOR A JUAN VALDEZ ACTION FIGURE.
SUPERHEROES COME IN MANY FORMS, SON.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LYING ON THE COUCH WATCHING TV ALL DAY?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE SLOGAN "JUST DO IT"?
THAT'S WHAT GOT ME TO LIE ON THE COUCH WATCHING TV ALL DAY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Netting
5 Sixth sense
8 Medley
12 Jai —
13 Knight's address
14 Atkins diet no-no
15 Sport developed by Native Americans
17 Exotic berry
18 Crazy
19 Tranquil
21 Chaps
22 Recipe direction
23 Lass
26 High school subj.
28 Entrap
31 Apple computer
33 Days of yore
35 Teensy bit
36 Ness and Lomond
38 Guitar master Paul
40 Sch. URL ender
41 — pro quo
43 Having a lot to lose?
45 Wall plaster
47 Sports venues
51 Timid
52 Quality of fine lingerie
54 British noble
55 Snip
56 Send forth
57 Gaelic
58 Swelled head
59 Throw

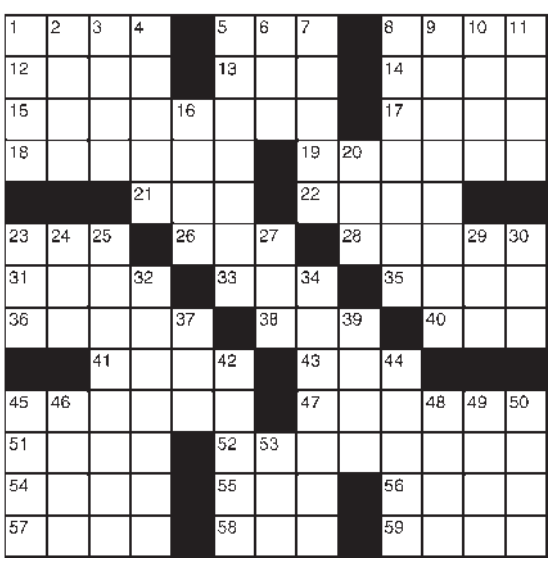
DOWN

1 Neighbor of Algeria
2 Flair
3 Pouches
4 Distiller Walker
5 Magazine launched in 1970
6 Bro's kin
7 Fourth estate
8 Egg-shaped instrument
9 Slash with a machete
10 Persia, today
11 Theater award
16 Small bills
20 UFO crew
23 Baseball's Hodges
24 I love (Lat.)
25 Glossy coatings
27 Unwell
29 Fishing pole
30 Outback bird
32 Laugh a little
34 Actually (Lat.)
37 Bracketed word
39 Ganges garment
42 Sweetly, in music
44 Doctrine
45 Hook's henchman
46 Eye drop
48 "Finding —"
49 Tag sale words
50 Bygone jets
53 Calendar abbr.

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	I	P	A	■	U	L	T	■	Q	J	I	P
A	R	E	S	■	B	U	S	■	U	R	G	E
I	I	C	K	I	C	C	K	■	■	S	O	N
E	S	S	■	R	A	Y	■	S	C	A	R	S
■	■	■	B	E	T	■	O	A	K	■	■	■
M	A	L	L	S	■	M	U	P	P	E	T	S
F	I	I	A	■	B	A	T	■	■	V	F	S
H	A	L	C	Y	O	N	■	S	C	E	N	T
■	■	■	K	E	Y	■	W	O	K	■	■	■
N	I	N	E	A	■	B	A	A	■	B	A	S
A	S	E	A	■	R	U	C	K	S	A	C	K
M	A	R	C	■	A	R	K	■	A	L	T	I
F	W	O	K	■	T	R	Y	■	M	I	S	T

Yesterday's answer 3-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jace Norman, 18; Matthew Broderick, 56; Rosie O'Donnell, 56; Gary Oldman, 60.

Happy Birthday: Know your destination and don't lose sight of your goals. Determination will be necessary but also must be applied to what's doable. Trying to obtain something that is out of reach will cause you to miss something worthwhile. Choose your battles wisely and recognize where your efforts will make the most difference, and you will discover what happiness is all about. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 24, 33, 45, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen carefully and ask questions if you don't understand something that's said. Getting things done right the first time will help you bypass criticism and complaints. A steady pace will supersede speed when it comes to reaching your goal. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Dealing with others will prove necessary, but handle it all carefully and with compassion and integrity. You can influence others with your rhetoric, so choose your words wisely. If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Deal with bureaucratic issues that crop up. It's best to stay on top of your money, legal or health matters to avoid an untimely delay. Honesty will play a role when it comes to the way you are viewed by someone influential. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Set time aside to take care of matters of interest, dealing with children or seniors and making your community a safe place. Your kindness will be met with constructive suggestions and offers from someone willing to pitch in and help. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Use charm and your clout to reach out to someone who has jealousy issues or doesn't like the way you do things. Offering a kind gesture will help to open up a dialogue that can encourage a better relationship in the future. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* If you want to do something, go all out and make it count. Opportunity is apparent, but if you limit what you can accomplish because you don't want to accept help, you will fall short of your expectations. Call in favors. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Examine documents or shared assets you have with someone. An opportunity to make a clean break and take care of issues that have been hanging over your head should be a priority. Forward motion is in your best interest. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* The tone set for the day will come through discipline, hard work and the reluctance to admit defeat. Take pleasure in doing things differently, and enjoy the fruits of your labor and the choices that unfold. A partnership looks inviting. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Settle into whatever job you are given, and don't stop until you are finished. The way you handle work and the people you work alongside will help you maintain popularity. Romance will help counter negativity and opposition from someone you love. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do the bulk of your work from home. Tidy up and take care of personal paperwork and responsibilities that will help to secure your future. Investing in tangible plans that will increase your assets is your best bet. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't be tempted by what others do or say. Too many outside influences will cause confusion. Stick to what you know you can do. Overreacting when dealing with a friend or relative will only make matters worse. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Communication will be the best way to get things done. Being on the same page as the people you have to deal with will make life easier. Do your research and have alternatives ready should you meet with opposition. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are driven, practical and effective. You are materialistic and protective.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				2				
	1		5		9		7	
		8				6		
			3		1			
7			6	9	2		5	8
9	2			5		3	1	
	9	6		3	8	1		
			9	7				
				6				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	9	1	8	3	5	7	6
7	5	1	6	9	4	8	2	3
8	3	6	7	2	5	1	9	4
4	6	5	8	1	2	9	3	7
1	2	8	3	7	9	4	6	5
3	9	7	5	4	6	2	8	1
6	7	2	9	5	1	3	4	8
9	1	3	4	6	8	7	5	2
5	8	4	2	3	7	6	1	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TURKEY RAFFLES Solution: 6 letters

T	C	S	O	L	D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	A
N	H	A	T	L	O	S	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	T
E	O	A	R	I	L	G	D	I	N	N	E	R	R	T
M	N	I	N	D	R	A	I	G	A	M	E	E	E	E
N	E	T	S	K	S	I	C	F	T	A	V	V	S	N
I	V	M	R	S	S	K	P	O	T	I	E	M	S	D
A	E	O	B	E	I	G	A	S	L	N	A	L	E	E
T	N	T	L	E	E	M	I	E	T	H	P	O	D	E
R	I	S	L	U	R	S	D	V	T	I	U	C	E	M
E	N	A	O	A	N	S	A	A	I	S	O	A	T	O
T	G	E	F	C	U	T	D	L	C	N	R	T	I	C
N	K	F	A	S	I	N	E	A	E	E	G	I	V	L
E	L	S	E	I	P	A	N	E	T	S	T	O	N	E
E	H	O	S	T	S	I	L	A	R	E	N	N	I	W
R	E	S	I	A	R	D	N	U	F	S	R	O	O	D

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Admission, Annual, Attendee, Cards, Cash, Date, Deliver, Desserts, Dinner, Donations, Doors, Entertainment, Entrees, Evening, Event, Feast, Fundraiser, Game, Gift, Group, Hams, Hosts, Invited, Local, Location, Loss, Members, Pies, Raffle, Sales, Social, Sold, Spin, Spirits, Steaks, Support, Thanksgiving, Treats, Volunteers, Welcome, Winner

Yesterday's Answer: Napoletana

Treasuries 13 through 29 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Last but not least

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Philpan International Inc.
(1) Sales Representative
At Least 3 yrs Experience
in Sales Peachtree
Invoicing Literate.
Contact No. 783-0367

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(1) AUTO MECHANIC
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in overhauling engine
At least 3 years experience

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(2) Tailor
(2) Seamstress

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(Saipan, MP)

Conduct taekwondo classes for beginners & experts; monitor students' performance, make suggestions for improvement, & ensure that they satisfy training reqs & reach training goals. Req. Bachelor's in Physical Edu w/ major in Taekwondo. Must have a Cert of Taekwondo Instruction Qualification issued by Kukkiwon. Res to Blue Dragon Martial Arts PO Box 506310 Saipan, MP 96950.

Kauila Professional Services
JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) Child Care Worker
(3) Book Keeper
(1) Computer Specialist
(3) Sales Representative
(55) Food Preparation Server
(80) Commercial Cleaner
(1) Restaurant Manager

Interested applicants may send their resume to kauilapro@gmail.com or pick up an application form at our office at Suit 107 Marianas Business Plaza Susupe between 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

FOR RENT

WAREHOUSE
Tanapag
50,000 sq.ft.
As Lito
7,000 - 8,000 sq.ft.
Dandan
3,600 sq.ft.

APARTMENT
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TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, March 26, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
(1) February 26, 2018 - Regular Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
a. Regulations for Internet Gaming Operations for Further Discussion
b. Changes to the Revised Gaming Act of 1989 for Further Discussion

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
a. Licensing Matters
1) Casino Service Industry License Renewal
United States Playing Card Company
ED Recommendation
No. ED-2018-01.CSI

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-02
SUBMISSION DATE: April 6, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF MICROSOFT OFFICE 2016"
FOR THE CNMI Judiciary, Judicial Administrative Office"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-OGM-069
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) PICK-UP TRUCKS, 4WD, FOUR-FULL DOORS FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-007

Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station, Tinian

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, March 2nd, 2018 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., March 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-007 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

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In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

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Ronaldo vs Messi: Scoring race heats up

MADRID (AP)—Regardless of who wins the Spanish league, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo will be battling to the end.

Real Madrid doesn't have much chance of keeping Barcelona from winning the league, but Ronaldo is making a strong run to snag the scoring title from Messi with nine matches remaining.

Ronaldo added another four goals as Madrid beat Girona 6-3 on Sunday, giving him 22 for the season. That is only three behind Messi, who scored his 25th as Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 2-0.

"Hopefully he can catch him," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said of Ronaldo. "It's important for him and for us, too. When he's playing well, the team plays well. He transmits an important and positive energy to the group.

"He's always in very good form come the end of the season. He's got an eye for goal and he'll never lose that."

Ronaldo has scored at least one goal in his last eight matches in all competitions. He has 21 in his last 11 games.

"He's unbelievably ambitious and that comes across in every training session and in everything he does on the field," Zidane said. "If he has a penalty in training, he will take it with the maximum concentration. It's what makes him different from the rest."

Ronaldo is trying to keep Messi from winning the top-scorer's "Pichichi" trophy for the second consecutive year. The Argentina forward scored 37 league goals last season, 12 more than Ronaldo.

Ronaldo hasn't won the award since 2015, when he had 48. That was still shy of Messi's record of 50 in 2011-12.

Despite's Ronaldo's impressive run, Madrid trails Barcelona by 15 points after 29 matches. The teams meet again in May at Camp Nou. They could also meet in the Champions League semifinals or the final.

Messi scored twice against Madrid this season -- in a 3-1 loss in the Spanish Super Cup at the beginning of the season and in a 3-0 win at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in a league match late last year. Ronaldo scored in that Spanish Super Cup game.

Messi has scored at least once in his last six matches in all competitions. He has at least 25 league goals in nine consecutive seasons with Barcelona.

"Messi is the best player in the world and he shows it game after game," Athletic defender Unai Nunez said after their match on Sunday.

Ronaldo has at least 25 league goals in the last eight seasons. He has 50 career hat tricks, and scored four or more goals in a match with Madrid eight times.

"He's on unbelievable form at the moment," Madrid forward Lucas Vazquez said of Ronaldo. "He helps the team with his work, goals, and assists. Everyone benefits from it."

There were some reports in Spanish media on Monday saying Ronaldo tried to make a deal with tax authorities in a fraud case against him, and that his proposal was reportedly rejected.

"Don't try to erase the beautiful moment I'm going through with fake news," he wrote on Instagram. "Life is good. Blessed."

Last year, a state prosecutor accused Ronaldo of four counts of tax fraud from 2011-14 worth 14.7 million euros ($18 million).

Ronaldo denies any wrongdoing.

AP

Barcelona's Lionel Messi, center, escapes Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, left, during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid at the Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2017.

Bills call Browns GM with interest in No. 1 pick

CLEVELAND—Could the Cleveland Browns trade out of the No. 1 spot in the 2018 NFL Draft? A recent report from nationally syndicated radio host Dan Patrick suggested the Browns are willing to move.

Patrick mentioned on his Monday show the Buffalo Bills have called Browns GM John Dorsey with interest in moving up to the No. 1 spot in next month's draft.

It's an interesting development. The two teams recently executed a trade where the Browns sent the Bills a third-round pick for quarterback Tyrod Taylor. Buffalo would be trading up to secure Taylor's long-term replacement now that he's in Cleveland.

Buffalo holds two first-round picks, at 12 and 22. They recently traded up from No. 21 to 12 by dealing starting left tackle Cordy Glenn to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Colts sign Eric Ebron

In Indianapolis, the Colts finally made a splashy signing Monday night.

It should make Andrew Luck happy, too.

After adding only one player in the first five days of free agency, the Colts agreed to a deal with former Detroit Lions tight end Eric Ebron. Contract terms were not immediately available.

"I fell in love with the coaching staff. I fell in love with the GM, I fell in love with the staff and that's kind of what pushed the envelope for me to want to be here," Ebron told local reporters on a conference call. "I really felt a lot of love and was shown a lot of support for my game, my family, the things I wanted to accomplish and at the end of the day, my goals."

It's a chance for Ebron to start over.

The Lions drafted the highest-rated tight end in 2014 in the first round but Ebron never quite lived up to the hype.

In four seasons, he had 186 receptions, 2,070 yards and 11 TDs in 56 career games. He didn't appear in all 16 games until last season when he caught 53 passes for 574 yards and four touchdowns.

Even worse, he developed a reputation for dropping passes—a problem Ebron said stemmed from a lack of mental focus and a problem he plans to fix next season.

Ultimately, that was enough for Detroit to cut ties with Ebron last week.

The Colts, however, thought enough of Ebron's potential to give him another shot. He is expected to be paired with Jack Doyle, who made his first Pro Bowl last season, and Erik Swoope, a former college basketball player who had moved to No. 2 on the Colts' depth chart.

"It's a fresh start, it's a whole new ordeal, it's a whole new world really that you're stepping into," Ebron said. "It's definitely something to look forward to. Obviously, you get to play the game that you love for another season. You just have to enjoy it."

Ebron joins Denico Autry, a backup defensive lineman with the Raiders last season, as Indy's only free-agent additions so far.

It's not likely to be the last move made by general manager Chris Ballard, who has long espoused he prefers to draft and develop players rather than overspending in free agency.

Autry and Ebron both appear to fit the blueprint.

But Ballard did make a lot of noise Saturday with a trade that sent the No. 3 overall pick in next month's draft to the New York Jets, who will presumably take a quarterback. In exchange the Colts got the No. 6 overall pick, two second-round picks this year and the Jets' second-round pick in 2019.

Joint World Cup bidders: Trump hasn't sparked voter concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Organizers of the North American bid to host the 2026 World Cup insist FIFA members have not expressed concern about President Donald Trump's harsh words about foreigners or the U.S. Justice Department prosecuting corrupt soccer officials.

"Look, this is not geopolitics," new U.S. Soccer Federation President Carlos Cordeiro said Monday during a conference call. "We're talking about football and what fundamentally at the end of the day, what's the best interests of football and our footballing community, and we've had no backlash. We're very focused on the merits of our bid."

A joint bid by the United States, Mexico and Canada was submitted to FIFA on Friday along with a proposal by Morocco. The 207 other members of the international soccer governing body will vote on June 13 in Moscow.

Cordeiro, Mexican Football Federation President Decio de Maria and Canadian Soccer Association President Steven Reed spoke from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where they were meeting with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, a subset of the Asian Football Confederation.

A solo bid by the U.S. for the 2022 World Cup was favored going into the 2010 vote but lost to Qatar. FIFA then changed the vote rules to give the decision back to the entire membership, which chose hosts prior to 1986, when the choice started being made by the roughly two dozen members of its executive committee.

"We believe that the member associations are going to judge us on the quality of the bids, on the merits of our bid, and that's it," Reed said. "We're very confident about what we're putting forward, and I don't think that we're concerned about politics."

Sixty games would be played in the U.S. under the bid plan, including all from the quarterfinals on. Three cities were included from Mexico and Canada, and both of those nations would host 10 games.

Holding a tournament in the U.S. would subject many of the documents generated to subpoena by U.S. federal prosecutors, who have secured numerous guilty pleas to corruption charges from soccer officials since 2015 and obtained convictions at trial last year against Juan Angel Napout, the former president of South American soccer's governing body, and Jose Maria Marin, the former president of Brazil's soccer federation.

"We haven't had any of those concerns raised by any of the members that we've met so far," Cordeiro said. "The reforms that FIFA undertook some years ago I think were spot on and we feel very confident that ultimately the right decision will be made."

Morocco's bid envisions spending almost $16 billion, including $3 billion to construct nine new stadiums, refurbish five others and build or renovate 130 training grounds.

Aldridge's double-double powers Spurs over Warriors

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—LaMarcus Aldridge continued to lead the way for the Spurs, who are trying to find a way to remain in the playoffs.

Aldridge had 33 points and 12 rebounds, and San Antonio blew a 16-point lead to the injury-ravaged Golden State Warriors before pulling away for an 89-75 victory on Monday night.

"I'm a leader, so I have to do what we need," Aldridge said. "Playing defense, blocking shots, scoring. It all comes with it."

San Antonio beat Golden State for the first time in four tries this season and won their fourth straight overall to move into fifth place in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of idle Utah and New Orleans.

Aldridge scored five straight points early in the fourth quarter to help the Spurs recapture a 66-65 advantage. He finished with 19 points in the fourth, including 11 straight that erased a four-point deficit and gave San Antonio a 72-65 lead it would not relinquish.

"He was a horse in that fourth quarter," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "Obviously, it wasn't a fair fight, but it just shows what kind of class they have and how well coached they are and how badly they want to be champions again. They played great and we picked the right five minutes to play really well at the end of the game."

Already without injured All-Stars Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson, Golden State lost Draymond Green in the second quarter to a bruise in the pelvic area. Green took a knee to the upper groin while defending a drive to the basket by Danny Green.

Draymond Green said he was suffering a "constant, annoying pain," but doesn't expect to miss any games.

"It'll be fine," Green said. "I think it's just something that's kind of like at the peak right now, but it's calmed down a little bit since it happened. It ain't that serious."

The Warriors weren't getting any sympathy from a Spurs team that has played without Kawhi Leonard for much of the season.

Golden State still managed to hold San Antonio to 12 points in the third quarter, matching the Spurs' season low for points in any period.

AP

San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) scores as Golden State Warriors forward David West (3) defends during the second half of an NBA game, Monday, March 19, 2018, in San Antonio. San Antonio won, 89-75.

Heat 149, Nuggets 141, 2OT

In Miami, James Johnson scored a career-high 31 points, Kelly Olynyk added 30 off the bench and the Miami Heat set a franchise single-game scoring record by beating the Denver Nuggets in double overtime Monday night.

Miami's total was also an NBA season-high and helped the Heat get back to the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference standings. Houston and Oklahoma City each scored 148 in games earlier this season.

Wayne Ellington scored 29 points for the Heat. Nikola Jokic had 34 for Denver, while Wilson Chandler added 26 for the Nuggets.

Neither team was at full strength. For Miami, Dwyane Wade (left hamstring strain) missed his fourth consecutive game, and Hassan Whiteside (left hip pain) sat out his fifth straight contest. Denver was without leading scorer Gary Harris, sidelined again by a strained right knee that could keep him out several more days.

Cavaliers 124, Bucks 117

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 40 points as part of his third triple-double in four games and Cleveland beat Milwaukee as coach Tyronn Lue began his leave of absence to address health issues.

Lue said Monday in a statement he been dealing with chest pains and loss of sleep, and that tests have offered no conclusion about what the issue is. Associate head coach Larry Drew will run the team in Lue's absence.

James scored 17 points in the third quarter and finished with 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his 16th triple-double this season and 71st of his career.

76ers 108, Hornets 104

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 25 points and 19 rebounds and Ben Simmons had a triple-double to lead Philadelphia over Charlotte.

Simmons had 11 points, 12 rebounds and 15 assists to help the Sixers keep alive their shot at finishing fourth in the Eastern Conference and earning home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The 76ers have one of the easiest schedules of any team the rest of the season. The Sixers would have to pass Washington and Indiana to grab the No. 4 seed and stave off a potential Toronto or Boston matchup for at least a round.

Pacers 110, Lakers 100

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo sparked a decisive run and finished with 20 points, Myles Turner had 21 points and Indiana recovered from a poor start for a victory over Los Angeles.

The victory snapped Indiana's two-game losing streak.

Los Angeles was led by Kyle Kuzma with 27 points and Brook Lopez with 23, but the Lakers still lost their third straight.

Oladipo and Darren Collison got Indiana going with back-to-back 3-pointers midway through the third quarter for a 77-70 lead.

Knicks 110, Bulls 92

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 points and Michael Beasley added 17 as New York beat Chicago.

Enes Kanter had 10 points and 13 rebounds, while Troy Williams added 11 for the Knicks.

Cristiano Felicio scored a career-high 17 points for the Bulls, who were missing their top three scorers and went 3-for-30 from 3-point range. Bobby Portis and Antonio Blakeney scored 16 points apiece.

Nets 118, Grizzlies 115

In New York, Allen Crabbe and Caris LeVert each scored 22 points and Brooklyn beat Memphis.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and DeMarre Carroll scored 18 points for the Nets, who have two straight wins for the first time since Jan. 19-21.

Andrew Harrison, who missed Memphis' last nine games due to a right wrist injury, scored 19 points, and Brionte Webber had a career-high 15.

NCAA upset worth units big bucks

NEW YORK (AP)—By becoming the first No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1, the Retrievers made about $1.7 million for the America East Conference. Loyola-Chicago's buzzer-beating run to the Sweet 16 will be worth double that to the Missouri Valley Conference. Nevada's consecutive comebacks were also worth about $3.4 million for the Mountain West. The MVC and Mountain West will pocket at least as much from NCAA Tournament units as the Pac-12, which had three teams in the field, all bounced after one game each.

Units are what the NCAA calls its revenue distributions from the basketball performance fund, which rewards teams for tournament performance. The NCAA Tournament generates more than $700 million in revenue for the association and its schools, the vast majority from its media rights deal with CBS and Turner.

Units for this year's tournament are worth approximately $273,000, according to the NCAA, but their value ends up being greater than that.

The units are paid out annually each of the next six years, increasing in value each year by about 2/3 percent. The payout system means that one upset by UMBC should be worth more than $1.7 million. Units are earned every game a team appears in, with the exception of the first game played by an automatic qualifier and the NCAA championship game.

The money goes to the conferences, unless the school is an independent in basketball. The NCAA encourages equal distribution by conferences among its members, but it is not required. Most do.

The Missouri Valley has in the past received multiple bids, but only champion Loyola-Chicago got in as an automatic qualifier this year. The MVC distributes the units revenue equally among 10 members -- though the NCAA Tournament participants receive an additional half-share to cover travel expenses, MVC spokesman Ryan Davis said Sunday.

The Atlantic Coast Conference has been rolling in units in recent years, with a total of 64 from 2015-17, worth more than $100 million. This season, the ACC got nine teams into the field, more than any other conference, and placed four teams in Sweet 16. Two of them—Duke and Syracuse—play in the regional semifinals, limiting the conference's earning potential.

The Big 12 also placed four teams in the round of 16. The Southeastern Conference and Big Ten each have two.

For the ACC—and other Power Five conferences—NCAA units account for less than 10 percent of conference revenue. The ACC reported $373.4 million in revenue for fiscal year 2016— most of which comes from a television rights deals with ESPN—and paid out about $25 million to each of its members.

For low-major Division I schools such as UMBC and the eight other members of the America East, those units are real money.

UMBC's athletic budget for 2017 was $9.3 million. NCAA records from 2010-15 show the America East earned a total of eight units and $2,086,514 in basketball revenue.

Over that same period of time, the Missouri Valley earned 21 units and $5,477,099. The Mountain West earned 33 and $8,606,870.

Titanium rallies past Blue Jays for third victory

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Juan Tenorio drove in four runs and Titanium capitalized on the Blue Jays' sloppy field defense to earn a come-from-behind 21-11 win last Monday night in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was the second straight and third overall in five games for Titanium, while the Blue Jays (2-4) lost back-to-back after an 18-8 victory against the Indians on March 5.

Tenorio went 2-for-5 with one run and had a two-RBI single in the second inning where Titanium held a 2-1 lead. He drove another run in the fifth and had an RBI in the seventh after being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Before Titanium rallied, the Blue Jays enjoyed a 10-2 lead after four and a half innings, but fell into a spate of errors at the bottom of the fifth. Titanium cashed in on the Blue Jays' boo-boos, scoring seven runs.

K.J. Villagomez, who had a single and reached third on consecutive errors by the Blue Jays, tied the game in the sixth after scoring on a Jerald Cabrera RBI single.

JON PEREZ
A Blue Jays runner, left, takes a lead as he prepares to run to second base, while Titanium first baseman Joe Palacios waits for the play during their game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Blue Jays committed 26 errors in the entire game, eight each in the fifth and seventh inning, allowing Titanium to mount a comeback. Titanium had 11 runs at the bottom of the seventh to end the game.

Brian Camacho went 3-for-5 with three runs, a triple, and an RBI, while Cabrera, Villagomez, and Tony Leon Guerrero had two-RBI single each—all were recorded in the seventh inning.

Villagomez pitched one inning in relief, giving up no hits with one strikeout and four walks, while Tony Leon Guerrero tossed for two, yielding one run on two hits with a walk and a strikeout. Cabrera started for Titanium and lasted four innings. He was tagged with seven earned runs on six hits with six walks.

Meanwhile, league leader GSM was playing the winless Indians at press time, while the defending champions Aces, after a 10-8 loss to the Falcons on opening day, shoot for their fourth straight triumph against the also unlucky Outlaws.

FALCONS

From Page 28

MINORS
Marlins 6, Comets 3

The Marlins scored three runs in the first inning on RBI walks in their game against the Comets.

Nick Sablan, Nathan Seman, and Ethan Dikito each had RBI walk, while Roque Pangelinan had an infield single for one of the two hits in the entire game.

Pangelinan pitched for the Marlins, allowing one hit, a single to Chris Agulto, with four strikeouts and three walks. He fanned out Eloy Guerrero then walked Peter Tomokane, who was left stranded after the game ended when Jordan Agulto had an infield fly. Pangelinan caught Agulto's pop fly to end the match as games in the Minors division are limited to only one hour.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Freddie Pelisamen and another youth standout K.J. Kabiriel took over in the closing minutes, as the Ol'Aces tripled the Saints' output for the 20-plus point lead, with still three full quarters to go.

Then in the second canto, the Ol'Aces used a new five-player combination, which could also pass up as a starting unit, with Marvin Rabauliman leading the crew. The former national player teamed up with U18 player Coby Santos in keeping the Ol'Aces' offense going, as their squad exploded for 40 points for an insurmountable 73-24 advantage at the break.

Despite the huge lead, the Ol'Aces played no let up on offense in the second half to complete their demolition of the Saints. The Ol'Aces peppered the Saints with all kinds of shots that just by the end of the third period, the winning squad was way over the century mark, 104-35.

After the lopsided win, eight Ol'Aces players finished in double figures with Rabauliman leading the way with his 19 points. Aiferson Atan chipped in 18, while Basa contributed 14, and Santos and Pelisamen added 12 apiece. Blake and Schmidt logged 11 each, while N-Nes Siech recorded 10. All of the Ol'Aces players who suited up in the squad's rousing debut scored.

Leo Galarse paced the Saints with his 18 points. It did not help the Saints' cause that they had only eight players available for the second match in the opening day.

In the curtain-raiser, the Ol'Aces downed Fiesta Resort in their women's division tiff, 65-51.

Alliyah Fernandez and Eleina Santos teamed up in powering the Ol'Aces past Fiesta Resort with the former registering a game-high 23 points and the latter making 21.

Fiesta Resort kept the Ol'Aces within striking distance in the first three quarters before losing steam in the final canto. Fernandez anchored the Ol'Aces' strong finish, dropping 11 of her total points in the fourth period for their double-digit winning margin.

Women's Division

Ol'Aces 65 — Fernandez 23, E. Santos 21, Hahn 7, Al. Santos 5, D. Camacho 4, An. Santos 4, S. Camacho 1.

Fiesta 51 — Pagarao 15, C. Camacho 9, Kautz 8, Manibusan 6, Watanabe 5, Alegre 3, Alferos 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 29-23, 48-39, 65-51.

Men's Division

Ol'Aces 144 — Rabauliman 18, Atan 18, Basa 14, Pelisamen 12, Santos 12, Blake 11, Schmidt 11, Kabiriel 6, Barcinas 6, Libuw 4, Lizama 4, Sablan 4, Deleon Guerrero 3.

Saints 58 — Galarse 18, Diaz 11, Brennan 10, Palacios 5, Villagomez 5, J. Deleon Guerrero 4, D. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 33-11, 73-24, 104-35, 144-58.

Roil Soil, Darrty get easy wins

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Jonny's Roil Soil and the Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty scored easy wins against their respective opponents in the A Division of the 2018 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light League.

Roil Soil almost swept all the events they played against the cellar-dwelling 6JMS Predators for a 15-2 decision. Roil Soil's only losses were in the Singles 501 after Carter Calma and Jun Santos dropped their respective matchups against Joel Gruy and Gigi Gatmaitan.

Ridin'Darrty downed the 6JMS Scorpions, 12-5, in the other A Division game to remain at the top half of the team standings. Roil Soil improved to 55-30 after its win, while Ridin'Darrty is tied with the 6JMS Mafia I at second to third place as they have identical 49-36 slates.

The Predators are at the bottom of the 10-team field with a 26-59 win-loss record, while the Scorpions are two places higher, together with the Amari's Gunners (40-45).

In other A division matches, the 6JMS Terminators scored an 11-6 win over the Franken Drunken Warriors, while the 6JMS Striker Destroyers and sister team Mafia I completed similar 9-8 decisions against the Gunners and the Proofers, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jonny's Kyodai members celebrate their win against the Naked Fish Dartaholics in the Flame Tree division of the SEDA-Bud Light League.

Other Game Results:
Masters

- Nakayoshi 12, Proofers 5
- Pythons 10, Mafia 7

Tuesday B

- Mafia 11, Chamberos 4
- Thunder 10, Empy 5
- Strikers 9, Petmalu 6

C Division

- Bulldogs 12, Wettzside 3
- Dart Vaders 12, Like A G4 3
- Bulls Hitters 11, Werpa 4
- Re-Darts 10, Bull It 5

Fanihi B

- PungPang 12, Darty Minded 3
- Mafia 11, Bandits 4
- Drunken Warriors 9, Desaten 6
- Shaka 9, 80 Proofers 6

Flame Tree B

- Kyodai 12, Dartaholics 3
- Ridin'Darrty 13, Serial Killaz 2
- Real Deal 10, Na'Gupu 5
- Drillers 9, Board Members 6
- Creepers 8, DNA Jump It 7

Inter-Government

- Dream Crushers 10, Gavels 5
- CUC Mafia 9, Niaowees 6

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man, Emmanuel Cobacha, Keeanu Diaz Kenji Abobo, Jeremie Manansala, and John Malasarte as members.

In the U16 division, the 670 Sonics will be pinning their hopes on John Daverex Caruana, Mark Ibanez, Paulo Cadag, Raven Francisco, Royce Ben, Stephen Bartolo, Champ Sabangan, Christian Bravo, Khristian Itaas, Jehpnyll Ejercito, Jerome Diyco, and John Christopher Fabros. Adrian Flores will coach the club's younger crew.

Joining the 670 Sonics in the U16 division are Canada's Crossover Sports, Guam's Okkodo Bulldogs, and the Philippines' Dream Chaser, Warriors, Lucena Beware, PYD, Lucban Team, ISBB, and Hotshots.

"We will do our best as a 'TEAM' to represent and be the CNMI ambassadors. We will show the Philippines that our CNMI basketball players can play ball," Ajoste said.

The 670 Sonics U18 coach added that their players and the 670 Sonics Basketball Association's officers prepared for the PH tournament for almost a year since getting an invite from Pinoy Youth Dreamers founder Rhuel "Beaujing" Acot. They joined various leagues and tournaments here to get ready for the tough grind ahead and had regular practices.

The 670 Sonics also held fundraisers to defray the costs of their trip to the Philippines and would like to thank the following for their contributions to the club: Armatech, Brabu Pharmacy, CHCC pproviders and hospital staff, Fishing Tackle, Kanoa Resort, Island Brand Clothing, Latte Built, Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Islands Club, Public School System staffs and teachers, Tan Siu Lin Foundation;

Reps. Angel Demapan, BJ Attao, Edwin Propst, Edmund Villagomez, Francisco Aguon, Francisco Dela Cruz, Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, and Vinson Sablan, Senator Sixto Igisomar, Vice Speaker Janet Maratita, WE>1 Clothing, World Resort, and 670 Sonics alumni. The 670 Sonics would also like to acknowledge the support of the players' parents.

Taga Kids Age Group & Relay Triathlon

PHOTOS By JON and MACKENZIE PEREZ

A participant in last Saturday's Taga Kids Age Group & Relay Triathlon maneuvers her bike around the course at Paupau Beach.

J.C. Ferrer smiles as she nears the finish line.

Some participants in the Taga Kids frolic in the waters off Paupau Beach while waiting for the start of the race.

A U12 age group participant runs out of the water after completing the 50-meter swim.

A young biker, right, looks out for an adult runner.

A participant in the bike leg heads out to the course.

Participants show their excitement as they wait for the start of the race.

A competitor in the girls division heads out to the bike course.

Ronaldo vs Messi: Scoring race heats up

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Aldridge's double-double powers Spurs over Warriors

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Rousing debut for Ol'Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ol'Aces' potent offense was in full display in their 144-58 crushing of the Saints during the opening of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces, which have a mix of former CNMI men's and youth national team players on their roster, pounced on the hapless Saints right in the first quarter, taking a commanding 33-11 lead. Preston Basa started out for the Ol'Aces and led the team's rampage in the opening canto after earning 7 points. Douglas Schmidt and young gun Dean Blake also scored a couple of points in the early part of the first period, while

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama, right, battles the Saints' John Villagomez for the rebound during the second quarter of their game in the MIBF island-wide caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

670 Sonics off to PH caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Players and officials of the 670 Sonics left Saipan yesterday to participate in the 3rd Dreamers International Basketball Tournament that will be held in the Philippines this week.

The 670 Sonics will be fielding two teams in the competition that will run from March 22 to 27 at the Batis Aramin Hotel & Resort in Lucban, Quezon and also feature squads from the host town, Canada, and Guam.

The 670 Sonics will play in the U18 division against Guam's St. John, George Washington, Tiyan Titans, JFK Islanders, and Okkodo Bulldogs, Canada's Crossover Sports, and the Philippines' Lucena Beware, Dream Chaser, PYD, Lucban Team, and The Reader. Certified FIBA Level 1 coach Omar Ajoste will call the shots for the 670 Sonics' U18 squad, which has Joseph Ejercito, Jude Tengco, Paulo Rafols, Ronel Aque, Sean Apasan Bryan De Guz-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 670 Sonics players and coaches pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before leaving Saipan for the Philippines yesterday to compete in a youth tournament starting tomorrow.

Falcons rout McDonald's in Majors

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Noah Aguon fanned out six, while his three teammates drove in two runs each as the Falcons breezed past Team McDonald's, 20-4, in the Majors division game in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Achilles Evangelista, Chris Pangelinan, and Leandro Sablan had two RBIs each for the Falcons, who scored 10 runs in the fifth inning to set up the blowout.

Aguon was tagged with four earned runs on six hits in four innings pitched, had no walks, and struck out six, including the the three batters he faced in the second—Corey Chambers, Dan Hodges, and Max Church.

Christian Gonzales came at the bottom of the fifth and forced Dillon Santos, J.J. Reyes, and Dylan Mister to ground out. The relief pitcher went on to end the game after picking up the Mister's grounder and throwing it to first baseman Andre Iguel.

Evangelista, who was walked three times and struck out in his second at bat, and Pangelinan had their lone hits in the fifth—both singles. Evangelista's two-RBI single drove in Aguon and Pangelinan, whose own hit allowed Iguel and Michael Tomokane to cross home plate.

Evangelista also had an RBI walk in the third to help Alfonso Taitano reach home. Aguon, meanwhile, went 3-for-4 with an RBI single and two runs, while Isabella Teigita, who struck out in her first at bat, had an RBI walk in the fifth.

Joel Deleon Guerrero went 2-for-2—both doubles against Aguon—and scored one run for Team McDonald's, which committed 15 errors.

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JON PEREZ
A Falcons runner prepares to head to third base during their game against McDonald's in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.